

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Odyssey Leadership Essay**  
**Instructions, Outline, + Drafting Checklist**

**ESSAY PROMPT:** Is Odysseus a good leader? Write a 5 paragraph essay that gives a clear answer to this and supports your position with 3 key reasons (MSP's) that use text examples and logical reasoning to convince your reader.

**SCORING** Each (of the 2) collected drafts will be graded as follows:

- **Focus** (10 points): Your thesis answers the prompt clearly and is followed by a preview of support. You stay anchored to your organizational plan *and explicitly connect all ideas and support* to the idea of Odysseus's leadership. You don't drift away from your topic or key points by including irrelevant arguments or examples.
- **Organization** (10 points): Your essay is organized logically and follows the patterns we have practiced in class. It has a funnel introduction that concludes with a thesis and preview of support that prepares your reader for your 3 MSP's. The body paragraphs follow a logical, non-overlapping order. Each body paragraph begins with a focused topic sentence and follows good paragraph organization. Logical transition words are used to connect paragraphs and ideas within paragraphs. The conclusion echoes the thesis without repeating it word for word. It then connects to leadership today.
- **Content** (10 points): You have a good title and all required introductory information in the opening paragraph. You support the topic sentences of each body paragraph with relevant, persuasive text support (examples and quotes) and specific analysis that ties each example and quote back to the point it is supporting and to the idea of leadership. Text information is accurate.
- **Text Citation** (10 points) You use at least one quote per body paragraph to support your MSP. Quotes should be key to the argument and not just provide a non-essential fact. Quotes should be woven in properly—introduced with a brief, helpful foundation and followed by the identification of the quote's significance to the argument. Quotes must be cited and punctuated correctly.
- **Style** (10 points): Sentences are clear and easy to understand. **You use “the right word”** not some imprecise or inaccurate word that sounds like the right word. Word choice should be formal and academic (no slang or contractions). Sentences should flow and have variety in structure. Ineffective repetition of words should generally be avoided.
- **Conventions** (10 points): All grammar, punctuation, and usage rules we have covered are followed. There are no missing words, extra words, or misspelled words. No fragments or run-ons appear.
- **MLA format** (10 points): Heading, pagination, title format, general format, and Work Cited page are accurate. There is no weird spacing; font is 12-point Times New Roman; everything is double spaced.

**Total:** 70 points for each draft. Late drafts drop a grade for each day they are late.

## OUTLINING THE ESSAY

Instructions: TYPE your outline using this format. RETYPE any word that is bolded on this page and then fill in what is required. PRINT OUT 2 COPIES –Give one to me; keep the other to use.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

### **Draft THESIS + Preview of Support:**

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**MSP 1:** full sentence = \_\_\_\_\_

- **text support for MSP 1 (at least one has to be a quote):**  
Specific example/ quote 1= \_\_\_\_\_  
Specific example/ quote 2 = \_\_\_\_\_  
Specific example/ quote 3 (opt.)= \_\_\_\_\_

**MSP 2:** full sentence = \_\_\_\_\_

- **text support for MSP 1 (at least one has to be a quote):**  
Specific example/ quote 1= \_\_\_\_\_  
Specific example/ quote 2 = \_\_\_\_\_  
Specific example/ quote 3 (opt.)= \_\_\_\_\_

**MSP 3:** full sentence = \_\_\_\_\_

- **text support for MSP 1 (at least one has to be a quote):**  
Specific example/ quote 1 = \_\_\_\_\_  
Specific example/ quote 2 = \_\_\_\_\_  
Specific example/ quote 3 (opt.)= \_\_\_\_\_

## CHECKLIST FOR FIRST DRAFT

### Paragraph 1 (introductory paragraph)

- ❑ Begins with a broad statement about *the topic* you have chosen. (This can be a question, a quote about the topic, or a provocative statement.)
- ❑ Be sure to introduce the title (the *Odyssey*) and author (Homer) of the text you are discussing before the final sentence of this paragraph.
- ❑ Introduce the general topic of leadership before the thesis, but don't give away your position before the thesis.
- ❑ Put in any other background information you want reader to have about the *Odyssey*, Odysseus, or leadership in general. You might want to define "good" or "bad," when these terms apply to a leader.
- ❑ The LAST SENTENCE of your 1st paragraph should be your THESIS STATEMENT--where you give a clear one sentence answer to the prompt, and you preview your MSPs.

### Paragraph 2 (1<sup>st</sup> body paragraph)

- ❑ Begin with a topic sentence. This topic sentence should state the 1st MSP in a focused, clear, and formal way: Identify one quality of Odysseus and indicate if it makes him a good or a bad leader.
- ❑ Prove that Odysseus has or lacks the quality you have identified in the topic sentence. Discuss the 2 or 3 specific pieces of text proof that support your MSP. Be sure that you have at least one quote in this paragraph and that the quotes and examples have foundation and significance (that you spell out how each proves that Odysseus has or lacks the quality).
- ❑ Make sure you CITE your examples and quotes at the end of the sentence where the quote or example appears.
- ❑ Make sure you explicitly discuss and analyze why a leader needs this quality. Give examples of leaders who do.
- ❑ Make sure you connect your pieces of proof with logical transition words.
- ❑ Make sure you have a closure sentence that sums up the MSP, but doesn't repeat the topic sentence word for word.

### Paragraphs 3 + 4 (2<sup>d</sup> + 3<sup>rd</sup> body paragraphs): Each of these paragraphs must

- ❑ *Begin with a transition word or phrase* and then your topic sentence. This topic sentence should state the MSP in a focused, clear, and formal way: Identify one quality of Odysseus and indicate if it makes him a good or a bad leader.
- ❑ Prove that Odysseus has or lacks the quality you have identified in the topic sentence. Discuss the 2 or 3 specific pieces of text proof that support your MSP. Be sure that you have at least one quote in this paragraph and that the quotes and examples have foundation and significance (that you spell out how each proves that Odysseus has or lacks the quality).
- ❑ Make sure you CITE your examples and quotes at the end of the sentence where the quote or example appears.
- ❑ Make sure you explicitly discuss and analyze why a leader needs this quality. Give examples of leaders who do.
- ❑ Make sure you connect your pieces of proof with logical transition words.

- Make sure you have a closure sentence that sums up the MSP, but doesn't repeat the topic sentence word for word.

**Paragraph 5 (Conclusion):**

- BEGIN the paragraph by **RESTATING THE THESIS**. You should not repeat the thesis statement word-for-word, but rather touch on the main argument once again. Write how you will

**RESTATE THE THESIS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

This last paragraph should also try to connect your ideas to a broader understanding of leadership. What can you communicate to your readers to help them see some relevance or importance in your analysis to today's leaders or modern ideas about leadership? How does your argument affect the appreciation of the poem as a whole, or apply in modern times? Draft how you will conclude your essay:

**BROADER CONNECTION (SO WHAT?) =** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

🍏 Please type your essay and use Times New Roman font, size 12. By the time the essay reaches me, the first page should start with this format:

Your Name	Your last name 1
Ms. Scott	
LA9	
Date turned in (___ February 2011)	
Title of Your Essay	
This is the first paragraph of your essay. Make sure you double space it and use Times New Roman font, size 12.....	



***Don't avoid the challenge; embrace it as an ancient Greek would! See me if you have any questions!***