

ENG 201
Prof. Celeste Conway
Writing Assignment

Choose topic A or B (not both) and write a thesis-driven essay of 2-3 pages in length. "Thesis-driven" means that the essay is focused on *one clear central idea*.

- Use present verb tense when writing about literature.
- Do not wander from your thesis (main idea).
- Offer analysis and interpretation; do not simply retell the story.
- Do not wander from your thesis (main idea)
- Follow classic essay structure: introduction, body, and conclusion.
- Do not wander from your thesis (main idea).
- Include at least two direct quotes from the work of literature.
- Do not wander from your thesis (main idea)
- Give your essay a good title
- Do not wander from your thesis (main idea)
- Use correct MLA format throughout the essay. See formatting guide and video.
- Cite correctly for quoted material. *See special guide for citing this play.* *
- Do not wander from your thesis (main idea)
- Sign the Academic Integrity Pledge (Pledge appears below Choice B information.)
- Before submitting, please read this [entire document](#) and check your essay with this list of requirements.

Topic A

Write an essay in which you discuss the relationship between two characters in *Oedipus the King*. Be sure your essay has a **thesis** (central idea) as you explore how the characters' personality, behaviors, beliefs and values affect their interaction. For example, you might discuss the interaction between Creon and Oedipus, comparing/contrasting their personalities and values. In the introduction, identify the characters and the main point you want to make about them. In the body paragraphs, you will focus on the characters and how they interact, keeping a constant eye on your **thesis** (central idea) then show their interaction. *Be sure to include at least three quotes from the play, using special citation required for this play.*

OR

Topic B

Discuss how *Oedipus the King* meets the standards for tragedy set out by Aristotle in the **following quote** from his work *Poetics*: "*Tragedy is an imitation of an action of high importance, complete and of some amplitude; in language enhanced by distinct and varying beauties; acted not narrated; by means of pity and fear effecting its purgation of these emotions.*" Please discuss **this specific quote** and not other definitions of tragedy. Do not consult online sources for this assignment. This is an exercise in critical thinking and analysis.

Academic Integrity Pledge

In order to be graded, all essays must contain a signed Academic Integrity pledge. On the Work Cited page, please include the following and type your name.

I hereby pledge that the information in this essay is my own original work and that all phrases or quotes taken from other sources have been correctly identified via quotation marks/in-text citation. YOUR NAME

General Outline for Essay

Original Title

Introduction

Interesting Beginning
Identification of title of play and author
Thesis Statement

Body

Topic sentences to introduce the main idea of each paragraph
Development of thesis with reference to scenes in the drama
Inclusion of at least three direct quotations from the play

Conclusion

Restatement of thesis (not repetition)
Encapsulation of main ideas
Satisfying ending

Work Cited

Sophocles. *Oedipus the King*. Trans. David Grene. OER Commons.

www.oercommons.org/authoring/9802-oedipus-the-king.

PDF file.