

English 9  
Sophocles' *Antigone* Timed Writing

My vision for this assignment is that you prep on Monday and take the writing on Tuesday. It is due at noon on Tuesday, and then you have completed English until after Easter break.

Prompt: Keeping in mind Aristotle's definition of tragedy—I review all this in my screencast that is an introduction to *Antigone*—who is the tragic hero of Sophocles' *Antigone*? Remember that Aristotle does not offer a list of rules for tragedy; rather, he describes what he has seen at the theatre. (The main goal of tragedy, you'll remember, is the eliciting of that catharsis in the audience; it's a religious purification.) But he saw some patterns. It is not enough to say that Antigone does not have an anagnorisis, because that by itself isn't definitive proof—it can contribute, though...

Your thesis and then the subsequent argument should persuade us that Antigone (or Creon) is the tragic hero of the play.

How to approach it: Maybe make two different outlines and then decide which one convinces you more. Consider hamartia, peripeteia, anagnorisis. Consider also counter-arguments. Are there places where you can acknowledge the other side and then refute, concede a bit, or bridge opposing arguments?

Further, should you make a paragraph in which you handle all the important counter-arguments? Should you sprinkle a line of counter-argument into each body paragraph? Should you handle counter-arguments in a general way in the intro before you get to the thesis? There is an array of workable possibilities.

On Tuesday: Have only your marked book, your pre-written thesis, and a skeleton outline. Set a timer for 45 minutes. Write for only 45 minutes, please. Students eligible for extra time may add 22 more minutes to the timer.

Advice:

- For most students, this will be a five-paragraph essay. You may end up with six paragraphs, but four is probably too few, unless they are really robust.
- Yes, you must quote, blend, and cite. Use quotations that are shorter than a full sentence, but quote frequently. Cite like this: "Lalalalalala" (1260). That "1260" in there? That is the line number. With super-famous works that exist in a bunch of different editions, it is considered best to give the line number, as in Shakespeare you would give act, scene, and line(s): (5.2.13-14). But editors haven't divided Sophocles' work that way, so just give the line(s).
- You should provide orienting information at the beginning of the essay—title, author. You may use the thesis as the only sentence in the intro if you like. If you want your intro to do more, you may write more. Your thesis, as always, should be arguable, concise, and exigent.

- Body paragraphs, as always, should begin with topic sentences that preview not only the content of the paragraph (the “what”) but also the analysis (“how” or “why”). The reader should understand from the topic sentence the relationship of the given paragraph to the overall argument.

- You may include a conclusion if you need one.

- Please remember rules surrounding plagiarism. You may talk to your friends and family in general idea-generating ways, but the real work and certainly all of the writing needs to be your own. Paraphrasing from an internet source without giving credit is also plagiarism—and you are not allowed to cite an internet source...so it’s best to generate your own ideas. You may read (and quote and cite) the introduction to *Antigone* in your book, though, if you are moved to do so.

FAQ: You may handwrite or type, as you prefer, as long as you can produced a double-spaced pdf.

If you want to submit your essay early, you may do that, but it is due by noon on Tuesday, as you can see on the Jupiter calendar, the assignment, and the class website.

What to do when you are finished with your essay: When you are finished, upload your work as a pdf to the assignment in Jupiter. Please see my email about how to do that. Click the circle next to the assignment itself and then upload. Jupiter also has a good help interface if you are perplexed. I am also happy to teach you to do this, or your friends by now have some conversance and can help you to upload.