

English 9

Theme/thesis in-class writing prep

Books 1, 3, 5, 6, and/or 9

On Wednesday, you will write in class a short essay in which you discuss the emerging themes in *The Iliad*. (Anyone eligible for extra time can write through the break.) At the end of Wednesday's class, you will hand in an essay that features:

- a theme statement for the book (chapter) you have chosen to write about
- a thesis statement that links the theme to two aspects of Homer's work (see below)
- two body paragraphs that support the thesis
 - with topic sentences that make clear the relationship of the paragraph to the thesis and that set forth the main topic of the paragraph
 - with evidence from the text (quote and cite) that supports your ideas

To do this effectively, you should prepare.

You may bring into class a prefabricated thesis statement in which you make a clear claim.

You may mark in your book passages you would like to quote, and you may use your book in class.

You may bring a skeleton outline to class to help you remember key points. This outline should contain no complete sentences and a reasonable person should recognize that it is in the spirit of a bare-bones outline or list.

Here are a couple of ways to do accomplish this writing effectively:

Option 1: You see a prominent theme and track it through the text, highlighting two of the books (chapters) we have read. Think of the elements of fiction to unify your writing. That is, focus on one element—characterization or style, perhaps—throughout.

Option 2: You see a prominent theme reflected in two different ways in one of the books (chapters) we have read. Choose two different elements of fiction to support your idea, one for each body paragraph. The most likely elements of fiction for this exercise are characterization and style, though you could also use setting, symbol, or point of view if you would like.