

Essay Assignment #1—Literary Analysis of *The Iliad* Peer Review

Write your name on each of your classmates' drafts at the top of the title page. Read each paper through simply for enjoyment, ignoring any sentence-level errors. Then address the following questions.

First Reading:

- What parts of the essay do you find most interesting or persuasive?

Thesis/Introduction:

- Highlight where you think the thesis is presented and write "thesis" in the column.
- Does the thesis directly address the prompt? Does it define the "scope and quality" of human agency? Does it focus on a specific passage?
- Is the thesis arguable? Can you think of a counterargument that would be as strong as the thesis itself?
- Does the thesis explain *how* and *why* the claim is important? Does the thesis require greater specificity?
- Does the introduction offer enough context to prepare the reader for the coming argument (does it, for example, situate the assigned passage within the context of the epic poem)?

Paragraphs/Bodies of thought:

- Does each paragraph (or body of thought) have an arguable TS (topic sentence)?
- Does each paragraph focus on the ideas presented in the TS? If not, which TSs /paragraphs should be revised?

Development and Support:

- Does the evidence within each paragraph support all aspects of the paragraph's claim?
- Do all of the paragraphs supply adequate evidence to support the thesis? Mark any sections of the essay that require more evidence to support the essay's claims.
- Mark those sections of the paper where you observe warrants. Write "warrant" in the margin. If the warrants are missing, mark the sections that need warrants and write "need warrant" in the appropriate space.
- Does the essay develop logical and reasonable conclusions based upon the evidence?

Organization:

- Does the essay offer explicit transitions between the paragraphs? Where do we see effective transitions? Where do the transitions need revision?

Style:

- Are all quotations adequately introduced/contextualized/integrated? Does the introduction of the quotation flow grammatically into the quotation itself?
- Are there consistent grammar/usage errors that need attention?

For the Revision:

- Which two aspects of the paper are the strongest and should remain in the final?
- Which two aspects most need revision? Are there any conceptual problems that must be addressed?