

HUMANITIES CORE COURSE

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UCI Libraries Instructional Services

NAME:

DUE DATE:

HUMANITIES CORE COURSE

Discovery Task 1:

- Find background information about Hegel’s view of tragedy.
- Use an etymological dictionary to determine the origin of a word.

Read all instructions first!

[Worksheet Version](#)

ASSIGNMENT:

- A. Use a **general** electronic **encyclopedia** to find information about Hegel’s view of tragedy.
- B. Use the online version of the *Oxford English Dictionary* to determine the definition and linguistic origin of the word “tragedy.”

OBJECTIVES:

Learn to use a **general encyclopedia** to get an overview of a topic or to gather specific facts.

Learn to use an **etymological dictionary** to determine the meaning and historical origin of the word “tragedy.”

ENCYCLOPEDIA OVERVIEW:

An encyclopedia is the first place to look when beginning to gather information about a well-established subject.

Encyclopedias can:

- Provide facts to enable you to answer questions about a topic.
- Provide a good introduction and overview of a topic.
- Give additional books and articles on your topic at the end of the encyclopedia article.
- Provide subject terminology, including correct spelling, for your topic.

There are two types of encyclopedias:

- **General encyclopedias** provide information about a wide range of subjects.
- **Subject or special encyclopedias** concentrate on particular subjects

ETYMOLOGICAL DICTIONARY DEFINITION:

Etymological dictionaries provide the history of words by tracing their development and usage from their earliest recorded occurrence.

HINT: Read the instructions completely before you start working on the assignment!

WHAT TO DO TO COMPLETE THE ASSIGNMENT

This assignment has two parts. The first requires you to use a general encyclopedia. The second part requires you to use the electronic version of the *Oxford English Dictionary*.

Part 1: General Encyclopedias

A. Use the online version of the *Encyclopedia Britannica* (<http://search.eb.com/>) to locate information on Hegel's philosophy of tragedy.

NOTE: You must be a currently enrolled student to use the online version of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*. You can access it from any of the computers on campus. If you are completing this assignment at home, there are instructions for accessing restricted resources on the UCI Libraries Homepage at How To...Connect From Off-Campus (<http://www.lib.uci.edu/services/how/connect.html>).

B. Write a brief evaluation (one to three paragraphs) of the usefulness of the information in the *Encyclopedia Britannica* to help you understand of Hegel's view of tragedy.

Part II: Etymological Dictionary

Oxford English Dictionary

The *Oxford English Dictionary* is a historical dictionary of English, covering the language from the earliest times to the present day. Its purpose is not only to give the current meanings of words, but also to trace their development through time. Entries contain detailed etymological analysis, and are illustrated by quotations from a wide range of English language sources from around the world, making the *OED* a unique historical record.

NOTE: You must be a currently enrolled student to use the *Oxford English Dictionary*. You can access it from any of the computers on campus. If you are completing this assignment at home, there are instructions for accessing restricted resources on the UCI Libraries Homepage at How To... Connect From Off-Campus (<http://www.lib.uci.edu/services/how/connect.html>).

WARNING: *You are not required to print the definition.*

A. Access the electronic version of the *Oxford English Dictionary* directly by entering the URL <http://dictionary.oed.com/>

B. To access the *Oxford English Dictionary* from the Libraries Homepage, follow these links. Start at the UCI Libraries Homepage (<http://www.lib.uci.edu/>).

Click on **Online Reference Resources**

Click on **Dictionaries & Thesauri**

Scroll down to the link for the *Oxford English Dictionary* and click on it.

C. Click on **Enter OED Online** on the *OED* homepage.

D. Enter the word "**tragedy**" in the box on the top right side of the screen.

E. Click on the "Find Word" symbol to execute the search.

F. Read the definitions.

G. Answer the following questions about your use of the *Oxford English Dictionary*.

H. Submit your completed assignment to your section leader.

1. How many definitions of tragedy does the *Oxford English Dictionary* list?

2. Summarize the first and second definitions given for the word. How do the first and second definitions differ from the third?

3. Give an explanation of the word "etymological" in your own words.

4. Write a brief summary (1-3 paragraphs) comparing Hegel's definition or view of tragedy and the definition given by the *Oxford English Dictionary*.