

HCC 1A: Pre-writing Grid #1

Epictetus: God and the Happy Life

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Assignment: You are asked to assess and critique the following interpretive claim: **“Epictetus’s god differs very little from the God of Jews, Christians, and Muslims. His god is an all-powerful, all-good being who watches over people and answers the prayers of the pious.”** To support your own argument in response, you need to locate relevant passages. This grid will help you take the first step in identifying operative keywords and phrases you can use as material for your argument. **Note:** You may do this work either in hard copy or online, but if you work online, print your work; the pdf will not allow you to save.

1| Locate references to the relationship of humans to divinity in Epictetus’s texts, and circle or underline keywords or phrases that relate positively or negatively to the characteristics given in the second sentence above, or your understanding of the God of a monotheistic religion. Some **2| Paraphrase:** briefly explain in your own words to clarify your comprehension. **3| Why does this keyword or phrase interest you?** Does your key phrase have a strong ethical, emotional, logical value? Does it remind you (positively or negatively) about some aspect of the major monotheistic religion you are working with? **4| So what?** When you have a group of key phrases, think about the structure of the argument in your “So What?” column. Does every piece of evidence you’ve found go in the same direction? You might want to highlight color codes for keywords that could be used to support different parts of your overall structure. (If you don’t yet have enough material, keep going. Just draw a line under your work on this keyword, right across the page, and start in col. 1 with a new keyword! You may need to use more than one sheet before you can evaluate your results and structure your essay. **Before you begin, re-read** Epictetus’s texts, the prompt, Prof. Kent’s “Analyzing Philosophical Texts,” and “Active Reading” (<https://eee.uci.edu/programs/humcore/Student/WritersHandbook/>).

KEYWORD or short phrase of a passage that interests you, characterizing Epictetus’s god (3-4 words)	PARAPHRASE the meaning of your chosen key phrase <i>in your own words</i>	Why is this key phrase interesting? How does it relate to the god’s power, knowledge, goodness, other qualities?	How would you use this passage to argue a particular or overall <u>similarity</u> to the divinity of one of the three monotheistic religions? [Or perhaps difference]? Major, or minor?	SO WHAT? Leave this for last. Would you use this key phrase to <u>agree</u>, or <u>disagree</u>, with the claim made in the prompt? How?
Quote exact word/phrase here, with page # and H for Handbook, D for Discourse	Here you are clarifying your own comprehension of your chosen key word or phrase.	Investigate the keyword: ethical or emotional appeal? Logical link? Related to other parts of text?		