

**HCC 1A: Pre-writing Grid #2 Analyzing a Narrative about Sacrifice: Abraham and Isaac**

V. Folkenflik

**Assignment:** You have been asked to do a close reading of the story of Abraham and Isaac in order to answer the question: *How does the covenant expressed in the story of Abraham and Isaac affirm or reject human sacrifice?* This grid will help you identify some of the ways keywords appeal to the reader response to the story. **Note:** You may do pre-writing in hard copy or online, but if you do it online, print all work; the online pdf will not allow you to “save” it. Before you begin, re-read Genesis 22:1-19, lecture notes, and Prof. Miles’s chapters in <https://eee.uci.edu/programs/humcore/Student/WritersHandbook/>).

**1) Locate** some key details that seem most significant for the meaning you might find in a specific passage you have chosen about sacrifice in the story about the Abrahamic covenant. Write your first word or phrase in the first column. **2) Paraphrase:** briefly explain in your own words. **3) Why** is this word interesting? Look it up in a dictionary or encyclopedia if appropriate. **4) How** might this detail signal an affirmation or rejection of human sacrifice? **5: So what?** How does this detail help you start on an interpretation of this story? Then draw a line under your work for this keyword, right across the page, and pick another detail.

| Interesting keyword relating to human sacrifice in the story of Abraham and Isaac | PARAPHRASE in your own words: What’s described or said about sacrifice? Does anyone see or listen?                 | WHY is this keyword or phrase interesting in relation to human sacrifice?                               | NARRATIVE? How might this detail appeal to a reader or hearer meditating on the possibility, value of human sacrifice?                           | SO WHAT? How could this detail help you understand the way the text as a whole affirms or rejects human sacrifice? |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| Quote exact word/phrase here, with chapter and verse #                            | Here you are testing your own comprehension of this reference to human sacrifice. Look keyword up in a dictionary. | Vocabulary, metaphor, element of ritual, diction, place, time, point of view of a particular character? | Emotional appeal, positive or negative? Explicit logic, premise or conclusion? Authoritative power or ethical appeal of divine or human speaker? | Used elsewhere in text? How? How does <u>this</u> use of your keyword fit in?                                      |