

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

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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?