**OEDIPUS THE KING RESEARCH PAPER (PART III)—REVISED AND UPDATED**

Due Date: **16 NOVEMBER 2020 (MONDAY)-ON CANVAS**

**LATEST DATE TO SUBMIT: 18 NOVEMBER 2019 (WEDNESDAY)-ON CANVAS**

Instructions: Students are to type (word process, Courier New 10-point font, double-spaced) Part III of the Research Paper, in the following format:

**Introduction Paragraph**: The Introduction Paragraph will present several slices of information, as indicated:

1. The Name of the Play (either underlined or italicized) and the Author of the Play—in the opening line.
2. Two to Three Things the Student **Liked** about the Play.
3. Two to Three Things the Student **Disliked** about the Play.
4. Two to Three Things the Student **Learned** from the Play.
5. **Thesis Statement, with the 5 subtopics (character traits of the Tragic Hero, separated by semi-colons)** presented as the Last Sentence-e.g. IN THIS ESSAY, I SHALL ARGUE THAT OEDIPUS IS A CLASSICAL TRAGIC HERO, BASED UPON THE FIVE TRAITS, WHICH ARE HIGH-STANDING; FATAL FLAWS; THE DOWNFALL; OTHERS SUFFERING FROM THE FATAL FLAWS; AND THE EPIPHANY OF OEDIPUS.

This Introduction Paragraph should be about 10 to 12 sentences in length.

**First Body Paragraph**: The Paragraph must begin with the **Topic Sentence for the First Trait—e.g. In this paragraph, I will show that Oedipus bears the trait of Noble Standing.** The Student must then present **two to three of the five Examples from Part I, along with the parenthetical citations for each example**. The paragraph will close with a **Journal Citation (JSTOR)** which provides a proof that Oedipus possess this First Trait. This JSTOR citation (taken from **Part II**) can either be presented as a short quotation (1 to 2 lines) or as a paraphrase (student’s own words). The two citation types follow:

1. McCollom says that “Oedipus was totally guilty of being a bad king” (22).
2. One scholar faults Oedipus for being a poor king and a poor judge of affairs in Corinth (McCollom 22).

NOTE: The incorporation of the Journal Citation should be within the paragraph, at the end, and should NOT appear apart from the paragraph, as we have presented in the example.

This Paragraph should be 10 to 12 sentences in length.

**Second Body Paragraph:** The Paragraph must begin with the **Topic Sentence for the Second Trait—e.g. I will now prove that Oedipus has two fatal flaws, which are his pride and his bad temper**. The Students must then present **two to three of the five Examples of Oedipus demonstrating this Trait from Part I, along with the parenthetical citations for each example.** The paragraph will close with a **Journal Citation (JSTOR)** which provides a proof of Oedipus acting out his flaw(s). This JSTOR citation (taken from **Part II**) can either be presented as a short quotation (1 to 2 lines) or as a paraphrase.

1. Mullens believes that “Oedipus’s most basic flaws are his arrogance and pride, which cause him to be blind to the truth” (112).
2. Mullens thinks that Oedipus’s worst trait, among others, is pride, and it is this pride which causes Oedipus to miss seeing the reality (112).

NOTE: Again, even though our above examples of the Mullens Citations appear below the body paragraph, you should include the citations within the paragraph, at the end.

This Paragraph should be 10 to 12 sentences in length.

**Third Body Paragraph:** This Paragraph must begin with the **Topic Sentence for the Third Trait**. The Students must present **two to three of the five Examples of Oedipus demonstrating this trait from Part I, along with the parenthetical citations for each example.** The paragraph will close with a **Journal Citation (JSTOR)** which provides a proof of Oedipus acting out this trait. This JSTOR citation (taken from **Part II**) can either be presented as a short quotation or as a paraphrase (see examples above).

This Paragraph should be 10 to 12 sentences in length.

**Fourth Body Paragraph:** This Paragraph must begin with the **Topic Sentence for the Fourth Trait**. The Students must present **two to three of the five Examples of Oedipus demonstrating this trait from Part I, along with the parenthetical citations for each example.** This paragraph will close with a **Journal Citation (JSTOR)** which provides a proof of this trait being played out among those affected adversely by Oedipus’s conduct. This JSTOR citation (taken from **Part II**) can either be given as a short quotation or as a paraphrase (see examples above).

This Paragraph should be 10 to 12 sentences in length.

**Fifth Body Paragraph:** This Paragraph must begin with the **Topic Sentence for the Fifth Trait (Epiphany).** The Students must present **the citation taken from Part I, in its entirety, since this is a single quotation**. This paragraph will close with a **Journal Citation (JSTOR)** which provides a proof of Oedipus having his Epiphany. This JSTOR citation (taken from **Part II**) may either be presented in quotation or paraphrase form.

This Paragraph should be 8 to 10 sentences in length.

**Conclusion or Closing Paragraph:** The Students will now give a brief discussion upon the following several questions:

1. Do you believe that the Play ended justly, or with justice served? Why or why not? (3 to 4 sentences).
2. Do you believe that Oedipus was a victim of Fate, a simple plaything of the gods, or do you believe that Oedipus was fully responsible for his actions and thus should accept all the blame? Explain your answers. (3 to 4 sentences).
3. What is your opinion about the perennial question: Does Man have Free Will or is his Destiny decided by Forces that he can neither understand nor control? (3 to 4 sentences).
4. What, if any, Lesson(s) did this Play teach you about Human Nature and about Life? (3 to 4 sentences).

Even though these **OPINION-BASED TOPICS** are in the format of Questions to be Answered, Students must respond to them in proper Paragraph Format. This can be done by turning the Question into a Complete Sentence—e.g. I do not believe that justice was served in the Play, because…

Note: The Last Page of the Research Paper is dedicated to the **Works Cited Page**, which presents an MLA-formatted listing of the Primary and Secondary Sources Students consulted and which were actually cited within the Paper. The Instructor will provide Students appropriate Guidance for the **Works Cited Entries (Page)** at a later date, but prior to the Due Date.