

English 9

The Odyssey Essay

Instructions: Write an essay that explores the reasons the suitors or Odysseus act the way they do. Your essay must include an introduction and a conclusion, and evidence from the epic poem to support your claim. The final sentence of your introduction should be your thesis statement, which states the topic of your essay.

THE PROMPT: As the epic poem ends, Odysseus returns and fights the suitors who have swarmed Penelope for three years. Both sides of the conflict have solid reasons for their actions, for doing what they do. Who do you believe has better reasons for their actions, the suitors or Odysseus?

Requirements: As you prepare and write your essay, include consideration of how either the suitors or Odysseus use the following appeals. You must include evidence of at least **two** of the three appeals in your essay.

- Evidence, such as facts or examples, to support their claims. (LOGICAL APPEAL)
- Reasoning, logic, and common sense to develop ideas and to connect claims and evidence. (RATIONAL APPEAL)
- Stylistic or persuasive elements, such as word choice or appeals to emotion, to add power to the ideas expressed. (EMOTIONAL APPEAL)

Remember to include a topic sentence, support with explanations and CITATIONS, and a clincher sentence **for each body paragraph**. You will write at least a four-paragraph essay, but do not limit yourself to four paragraph. Your conclusion should be creative and not redundant. Think of dessert at the end of a good meal, or a masquerade party to which your main points are invited but must wear a fun or intriguing costume.

