

**The Odyssey
Timed Writing**

Background:

We have spent the last several weeks studying ancient civilizations and Homer's *Odyssey*. The *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* are believed to be the two oldest surviving works of Western literature. They are believed to have been composed near the end of the 8th Century, BCE. This is almost 3,000 years old! This story is so much fun to read; it has great action, romance, and adventure. The themes seem to be universal to our experiences today. The characters are powerful and memorable. But really, why would we spend so much time on such ancient text? There are so many great and powerful themes presented in this epic poem. Now it's your turn to frame an argument.

Prompts:

Ultimately, you will choose **one** of the questions below as your argument paragraph prompt. As you think about which one is best, complete the claim statement below each question. This will help you to decide which question you are most comfortable answering.

1. Is Odysseus a good leader?

Odysseus is / is not a good leader to his men because _____

2. Is Odysseus a good role model for his son or his men?

Odysseus is / is not a good role model because _____

3. Who faced greater hardship: Odysseus or Penelope?

Odysseus / Penelope faced greater hardship because _____

4. Why should modern students study Homer's *Odyssey* in high school English classes and World History Classes?

Students should study the *Odyssey* because _____

****Which of the above questions do you feel most confident answering? Circle that question and answer. This is your prompt and claim for your paragraph. Remember, you are only choosing ONE of the questions for an argumentative paragraph.**

Requirements:

- You must begin your paragraph with a strong Claim statement, which is your topic sentence. It should be a complex answer to the above prompt question.
- Include in your first sentence the author or the work being studied and the title (in Italics).
- Your claim should then be supported with 3 examples, or data. These examples should be specific. For each example, you must use parenthetical documentation showing the book and line number from the poem.
- Each example should be explained carefully. Make sure you explain, or warrant, just how the data answers or supports your claim statement
- You should conclude your paragraph with a statement that gives your paragraph importance and leaves your reader with a strong impression about *The Odyssey*.
- You may NOT use "I" or "me" or "we" or "you" in your paragraph.
- Pre-write to develop some of your ideas for data and warrants. You may use the back of this paper to plan.
- Revise and proof-read carefully.
- Final draft must contain a proper heading and must be typed, double-spaced. If you don't know how to set up your page to do double spacing, please ask.

Prompt or Question...

ANSWER STATEMENT: CLAIM

DATA	EXPLANATIONS
1.	WARRANT →
2.	→
3.	→
4.	→
5.	→

Choose your best 3 for your paragraph.