***The Children’s Homer***

**Final Persuasive Essay**

In Part II of *The Children’s Homer,* we read about Odysseus’ journey back to Ithaka. Using your knowledge of The Hero’s Journey, along with the activities we have completed in class, you will evaluate Odysseus’ character as a hero.

For your final project, you will write a persuasive essay that will convince your audience as to whether Odysseus is a true hero or not.

You will take one of the two stances:

* Odysseus is a hero
* Odysseus is not a hero

We have practiced writing a persuasive essay in class using a thesis statement in evidence. Your essay must be five paragraphs in length, include textual evidence and explanation, and be typed in MLA format.

Use the following pages to help you plan your essay.

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**Five Paragraph Essay Outline**

1. **Introduction:**
   1. *Hook:* grab your audience’s attention with something other than a question.
   2. *Background information:* introduce the title, genre, author, and a brief summary of the novel. This should not be more than 3-4 sentences.
   3. *Thesis Statement*
2. **Body Paragraph #1 – Counter Argument**
   1. *Topic Sentence*
   2. *Reason for why someone might think the opposite of your argument*
   3. *Reason proving they are wrong*
   4. *Explanation for why they are wrong*
   5. *Transition sentence*
3. **Body Paragraph #2 – First Reason** 
   1. *Topic Sentence*
   2. *Example/Evidence supporting your topic sentence:* direct quote from the text with an in-text citation
   3. *Explanation of example/evidence*
   4. *Transition sentence*
4. **Body Paragraph #3 – Second Reason**
   1. *Topic Sentence*
   2. *Example/Evidence supporting your topic sentence:* direct quote from the text with an in-text citation
   3. *Explanation of example/evidence*
   4. *Transition sentence*
5. **Conclusion**
   1. *Reword thesis statement*
   2. *Summarize main points*
   3. *Final thought:* a general, universal statement; can connect back to hook

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**Counter Argument Organizer**

**Some people may think that Odysseus**

**IS / IS NOT**

**a true hero.**

*(This statement is the opposite*

*of your argument – circle one)*

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Provide a reason that supports your claim and proves that other people are wrong:

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However, they are wrong because…

Explain why someone else might think the opposite of your argument:

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**Brainstorming Organizer**

**Is Odysseus a hero?**

**Give two reasons that show**

**why or why not.**

**Body Paragraph #3**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Body Paragraph #2**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Fill out the bottom portion of this graphic organizer with textual evidence (and in-text citations) that supports each of your reasons for your claim. For your essay, you must be able to explain why these examples support your claim.

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**Thesis Statement Generator**

The ***thesis statement*** is the roadmap of your essay. It should state the ***topic, claim, and direction.*** Your thesis statement should be ONE SENTENCE ONLY.

In this essay, you are going to persuade your reader about whether Odysseus is a true hero or not. ***This is your argument/claim.*** The ***reasons*** why you believe your claim is what you are arguing.

THESIS = explains the topic of your essay, what you believe about that topic, and why you believe it. Remember!! ***Do not use first person in your thesis.***

3 Parts:

1. Identification: What is the topic you are talking about?
2. Claim: What do you believe about the topic?
3. Direction: How can you support your belief? How can you prove your

opinion?

**Writing Prompt: Is Odysseus a hero?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ID: What is the topic?** | **Claim: What do you believe?** | **Direction: Support/Reasons** |
|  |  |  |

**Thesis Sentence Frame:**

Odysseus [ IS / IS NOT ] a true hero because he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(circle one) (reason #1)

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(reason #1 continued)

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(reason #2)

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(reason #2 continued)