**English 11/12 Honors: Tolkien Name:**

**Mr. Fisher**

**The Odyssey: A Journey to an Essay**

Introduction: Mr. Fisher can still remember when he was a student. It was a long time ago. Back then, we didn’t have these newfangled contraptions. We had ice boxes! And our carriages were pulled by horses! A horseless carriage? Who ever heard of such nonsense! Okay, truth be told, Mr. Fisher graduated high school in 1996, but when he was in high school, he had to hand-write his essays! In fact, he had a computer and *wanted* to type them, but his 11th-grade English teacher made him handwrite them anyway! She also gave her students a single essay question on which they had to write. When Mr. Fisher went to college, he was shocked to learn that his English professors did not give out essay questions. They expected their students to provide their own arguments! This was a tough adjustment for a young Mr. Fisher, who in those days had a lot more hair on his head and not so much hair on his face. Anyway, the point is, he wishes his high school teachers had prepared him better. He can’t change the past, but he can change the future and do his part to better prepare you for college!

Possible Objection: But Mr. Fisher, I don’t plan on going to college!

Actual Response to Possible Objection: I never thought I’d be a teacher, but here I am. You can’t predict the future. Should you one day change your mind, I’d rather you be prepared. That’s all.

Assignment: You must write a two-to-five-page essay on one of the following topics:

1. Women in *The Odyssey*
2. Advice in *The Odyssey*
3. Fathers and Sons in *The Odyssey*

Requirements:

1. You must develop a clear thesis that presents an argument that leaves room for disagreement. In other words, your thesis can’t be “Odysseus is the main character of *The Odyssey*.” Duh! Instead, it could be something like, “Homer clearly respects intelligence more than strength based on the actions of Odysseus, the triumph of Athena over Poseidon, and the theories put forth by that zany Greek scientist, Albertus Einsteinus.”
2. You must adhere to MLA style. (up to -10 pts off for failure to do so)
3. You must refrain from using “tears.”
4. Your essay must be handed in using turnitin.com. (Final copy only).
5. You must use at least THREE direct quotations in your essay.

Grading: You will be graded based on the rubric on the back of this assignment. I will be focusing on your thesis, and your ability to support it using quotations and examples from the text.

Rough Draft: Due on Wednesday, 10/11 (worth 10 pts)

Final Draft: Due on Monday, 10/16 on turnitin.com (worth 100 pts)

MT. GREYLOCK REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

*RUBRIC FOR ANALYTICAL WRITING*

**The final draft of an analytical essay must demonstrate depth of thinking, attention to a specific audience, coherence and accuracy.**

**ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS POINTS COMMENTS**

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| **INTRODUCTION**  **(with Thesis Statement)**   * **Introductory Paragraph:**. * **Topic (and plot if writing about literature)** is fully explained. * **Includes a General Introduction** * **Include a Complete Identification** * **Thesis Statement**: Final sentence makes a claim with supports | **/25** |  |
| **BODY**  **(Usually Three Paragraphs)**  **Each paragraph includes**:   * Strong **Topic Sentence** that relates to the thesis and introduces the support for the paragraph. * Specific **Evidence** to support the thesis. * For a literary analysis with textual evidence or outside source material, include proper **MLA Citations** * Use of **Direct Quotations** (Including proper lead ins) * Analyzes **Evidence** and connects it to the **thesis**. * Strong **Closing Sentences** that reinforces the main point. | **/50** |  |
| **CONCLUSION**   * **Restate** (reword) main idea of the thesis. * **Summarize** the main points. * End with a statement that **broadens the main idea** to the universal. | **/15** |  |
| **MECHANICS**   * Communication of ideas reflects **good grammar usage.** * **Paragraphs** are indented. * All **sentences** are complete and construction is varied. * Correct use of **capital letters.** * Free of **spelling** errors. | **/10** |  |