**Focus Question Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**The Odyssey. 25 points**

Discuss the sexual double-standard encountered in the epic**. How is it that Odysseus’ affairs with Circe and Calypso went unchallenged, but Penelope was expected to remain faithful??** Is this double standard simply a product of the times, or are there still echoes of it in our culture today?

* **Third Person**
* **Each box should flow into the next and sound like one paragraph**
* **To cite the book: “Your quote would go here” (Homer #).**

**Answer Plan**

1. Restate the question into a statement. (Sentence Block 1)
2. Respond with your answer to the question. (Sentence Block 2)
3. Support with an example (direct quote) from the text. (Sentence Block 3)
4. Explain the quote and its relevance. (Sentence Block 4)
5. Conclude by tying the last question to the topic. Is this double standard simply a product of the times, or are there still echoes of it in our culture today?

(Sentence Block 5)

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| 1  The Odyssey is an epic, written by Homer in the eighth century B.C., which is a time of strong men and women who stood by and supported them. |
| 2  Sexual double-standards existed in the eighth century and still do in the twenty-first century. Penelope, in The Odyssey, is the wife of the hero, Odysseus. While Odysseus is on his travels for twenty years he is unfaithful to his wife multiple times. Penelope, however, remains “faithful Penelope” and never ventures into another man’s arms. |
| 3  Odysseus, however, breaks his marriage vows multiple times. Calypso, a goddess who holds Odysseus for several years falls in love with him and he is unfaithful every night. “Though he fought shy of her and her desire, he lay with her each night, for she compelled him” (Homer 85). |
| 4  Yes, Odysseus was compelled, but he has proven his strength time and time again over the gods and could have found a way out of Calypso’s entanglement much sooner. Penelope was surrounded by several good looking, well to do men, and never once wandered from her vows or the hope of her husband returning home. She was faithful! |
| 5  There is a double standard between men and women in The Odyssey and exemplified in the differences between the characters, Penelope and Odysseus. This is a standard that, unfortunately exists today in the twenty-first century. |