**Accelerated English 12- Mrs. Boggio**

**The Odyssey: Analytical Essay**

**Assignment**: Write an analytical research essay of 3-5 pages on Homer’s, The Odyssey. Focus on an aspect that interests you and formulate a thesis which you wish to argue. Remember that your thesis must make a point about the play, and your paper must support that point by referring to specific examples from the text.

**Method**: The research paper will require both primary and secondary research. That is, you will study the text of the play carefully and draw your own conclusions, but you also will read scholarly critical articles about it. These sources will help you form ideas about the work, and you will refer to them in your paper, along with relevant passages of the play, to support your assertions.

**Task and Topic**: To write a critical analysis research paper, your first step is to find a specific topic. A good approach is to find a question that can be answered in your research.

**Requirements:**

1. The topic must meet the conditions described above.

2. Your grade will reflect your punctuality, thoroughness, and attention to details.

3. **A minimum of three scholarly articles or books** must be used and cited in the *essay in addition* to the primary source. **Warning: performance reviews, Cliff’s Notes, Monarch Notes, and other study guides are not acceptable sources**. Articles from scholarly journals are usually the best sources for a literary paper. Some good articles are available on the web; but if you do a web search, you must evaluate your results carefully to be sure that they are scholarly and reliable. Use my Weebly page and go to AP and sources and follow directions. This is the best site to use for VALID sources. Also, you can use **MEL.ORG**

4. **The final essay must be at least three double-spaced pages in a standard 12-point font such as Times New Roman. Shorter papers do not meet the minimum requirement, so they will not receive a grade higher than a D.**

5. Direct quotations long enough to require block indention should not exceed one-fifth the length of the essay total. It is better to incorporate shorter quotations into your own sentences.

6. Manuscript style must be standard MLA format described in any recent writing handbook.

7. Use parenthetical documentation and a works cited page in MLA style, also described in recent handbooks. I will not tolerate plagiarism—not even accidental. Be sure that you understand exactly what must be documented and how to give proper credit to your sources. Every quotation, even a phrase or single distinctive word, must be in quotation marks and the source identified. In addition, the source of every idea not your own must be acknowledged even if you only paraphrase it or summarize it

8. The complete project will consist of the final research paper with works cited page.

## 9. Write your essay in THIRD PERSON. No “I” or “Me.”

Due Date: November 4th

Grade= 75 points

(25 points for MLA guidelines and 50 for content)

**Directions and Prompts:** In the form of a well-supported, coherent Literary Analysis Essay, use one of the prompts below.

*One of the most important cultural values in The* Odyssey *is that of* ***XENIA (loving care shown to strangers), a Greek concept encompassing the generosity and courtesy shown to those who are far from home—or what we generally refer to as*** *“****hospitality****.” How is hospitality established as a key value in the epic? Why might hospitality have held more significance in Homer’s time than it does in today’s world? (Your essay should answer both questions, beginning with a thesis*

*How does Homer use* ***“divine intervention” to portray the relationship between gods and men*** *in the Odyssey? What emotional or intellectual effects does this portrayal have on either ancient or modern readers of The Odyssey?*

*Why is Odysseus considered* ***a heroic figure****? Does the character of Odysseus portray* ***the qualities of a hero that we find important in a hero today****? Explain and reach a conclusion that incorporates your personal and cultural understanding of* ***heroism****.*

*Choose one major character from The Odyssey whose choices or behavior illustrates the theme of* ***HUBRIS (excessive*** [***pride***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pride)***, self-confidence, disdainful and patronizing arrogance, or wonton violence—often resulting in fatal*** [***retribution***](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Retribution)***)****. How does Homer use techniques of characterization to explore this theme?*