**Oedipus Essay Prompts**

Please choose one prompt below to respond to. We will be reviewing the essay writing process and structure over the next two weeks while you practice writing. Essays should be a minimum of a page and a half, but not exceed three pages and should include a strong thesis statement, introduction, conclusion and include at least one reference from the play in each body paragraph. Remember the writing process– **prewriting**, **drafting**, **editing/revising**, and **publishing**.

**Prompts:**

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| 1. Sophocles’ play *Oedipus Rex* was written in the 5th century B.C.E. Why are we still reading the play today? Perhaps it is because the play deals with enduring themes that are relevant today. Select one of the following themes and discuss what you think the play says about it. *Do not try to outsmart fate. Do not think that a position of power makes one equal to the Gods. One must always be humble. App earances are not always what they seem. The search for identity is a natural human desire. Listen to others’ warning. Life is unfair*. Give three examples for one of the themes in your discussion.  2. Greeks believed that one’s future was determined by “fate” or destiny. They saw fate as a succession of events over which they had no control. Since Oedipus was ignorant of his crimes of patricide (killing his father) and marrying his mother, do you think he was actually *guilty* of them? Is he innocent because he committed these acts unknowingly, or is he guilty because guilt lies in the act of doing, not in intention? Give three reasons to prove his guilt or innocence.  3. At what moment in the play is Oedipus most confident and happy? At what moment is he most desolate and unhappy? How far apart are these incidents chronologically? Why do you think Sophocles structured his play this way? Give three reasons to support your position. |

Due Date: November 2, 2017

Point Breakdown - \_\_\_\_/40 Argumentative Essay Rubric

\_\_\_\_/10 Essays turned in on November 1st.