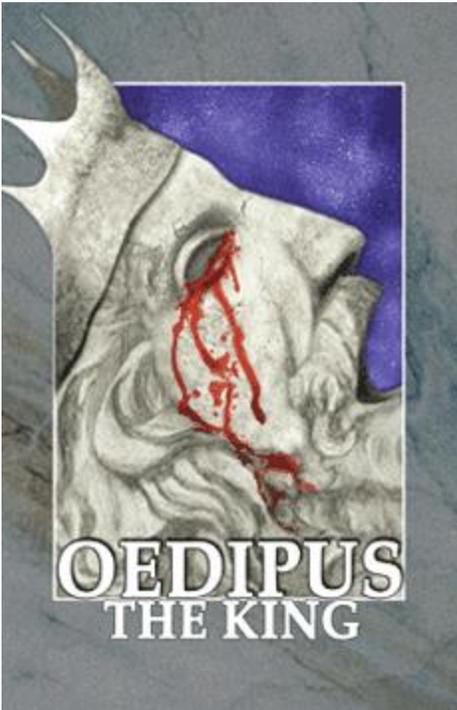


Oedipus Rex Essay – Making Connections



1. Go to the Internet and review "Writing about Literature" at the University of North Carolina's site
<http://www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/handouts/literature.html>.
2. Decide the major idea or principle about human nature, conduct, or motivation in *Oedipus Rex* that you will discuss in your essay.
3. Write an essay in which you discuss the play and show ways that Sophocles develops the major idea you've chosen and *then* **connect this major idea to something you have experienced or observed, or to a current event that you've read or heard about in the past few weeks.**
 - a. While you do not have to evaluate the play, you may wish to consider criteria from the "Nine Yardsticks of Value" as you discuss the play.
 - b. Develop your essay by incorporating carefully selected quotations seamlessly into the text of your own writing. (Include page numbers in parentheses.)
 - c. Include direct statements made by characters, dramatic statements made by character about others, characters who stand for ideas, and the work itself as it represents ideas.
4. Brainstorm, organize and then write. Or, freewrite, re-read and revise. Don't be afraid to leave out what does not help to make your point.
5. Bring printed copy for me, and a post a copy on the class website for electronic peer comments.
6. Refer to the six-traits rubric as guidelines for this essay.

Goals of essay assignment:

- Give you an opportunity to show that you understand the main ideas in *Oedipus Rex*.
- Give you an opportunity to identify connections between ideas Sophocles wrote about and contemporary issues you've experienced, observed or read about recently.
- Give you an opportunity to demonstrate your writing skills of organization, development, and incorporation and documentation of appropriate quotations that illustrate the claims you make about this piece of literature.