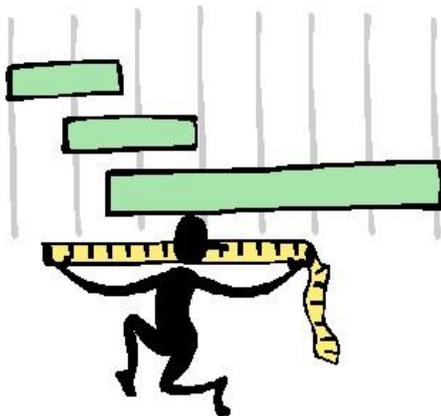


Analysis of a Critical Essay



Use the Nine Yardsticks of Value to evaluate *Oedipus at Colonus*. Now, read Part IV of Robert Fitzgerald in the critical commentary on Sophocles' work, *Oedipus at Colonus* (p.177-181 of your text). Use the chart below to record the values that seem to be important to Fitzgerald. Do you agree or disagree with his opinion of *Oedipus at Colonus*?

Once you've determined his values, write a one-page essay in which you indicate your stance on the work and whether or not you agree or disagree with Fitzgerald. Use specific references to the essay and the play to support your position.

Use the following questions to guide your brainstorming.

1. How would you state your general response to this piece of literature?
2. Why have you ranked the work as you have? Refer to specific yardsticks. Feel free to use key words from the handout as you substantiate your position.
3. What specific references from the literary work can you cite to substantiate your position?
4. What is the best way to organize your essay? Strong qualities to weak? Weak to strong? More subjective qualities or less subjective? Vice versa? Some other way?
5. What quotation or startling statement can you use to enhance the introduction to your essay?
6. Will your concluding paragraph summarize or reflect on the observations you're including in the body of your essay?

Your Evaluation

| Yardsticks of Value | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Clarity | | | | | |
| Escape | | | | | |
| Reflection of Real Life | | | | | |
| Artistry in Details | | | | | |
| Internal Consistency | | | | | |
| Tone | | | | | |
| Emotional Impact | | | | | |
| Personal Beliefs | | | | | |
| Significant Insights | | | | | |

Fitzgerald's Values

| Yardsticks of Value | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| Clarity | | | | | |
| Escape | | | | | |
| Reflection of Real Life | | | | | |
| Artistry in Details | | | | | |
| Internal Consistency | | | | | |
| Tone | | | | | |
| Emotional Impact | | | | | |
| Personal Beliefs | | | | | |
| Significant Insights | | | | | |