***The Odyssey* WRITER’S NOTEBOOK CHECK**

**Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Block \_\_\_\_\_ #\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. **Analyzing the Prompt /Pre-Writing \_\_\_\_\_\_/10**
2. **Samples/Outline \_\_\_\_\_\_/10**
3. **Rough Draft \_\_\_\_\_\_/10**
4. **Final Draft \_\_\_\_\_\_/60**

|  |
| --- |
| **RUBRIC** |
| **COMPLETE**   * Focused * Insightful * Thorough |
| **ALMOST**   * General * Appropriate * Adequate |
| **PARTIAL**   * Vague * Weak * Minimal |
| **GLIMMER**   * Scattered * Mostly Irrelevant * Lacking |
| **FAILURE**   * Irrelevant * Blank * Incomplete |

1. **Metacognition/Reflection \_\_\_\_\_\_/10**

**NOTEBOOK CHECK #1 – Analyzing the Writing Prompt**

**What do teens consider valuable? After reading the Odyssey and other informational texts, write a letter to yourself as a senior (grade 12) that defines what you value as a freshman and explains its importance in your life. Support your discussion with evidence from the text(s).**

In other words…The Greek hero Odysseus, King of Ithaca, completed a personal odyssey of 20 years. He fought the Trojan War for 10 years and journeyed home for another 10 years. He faced threats, monsters, and the wrath of gods along the way. While he was gone, others in Ithaca tried to usurp his authority, kill his son, and marry his wife. At his last stop before returning home, he told his journey to an audience and commented on its significance. You should consider the hero phases that Odysseus has gone through and think about your own journey through high school and how the phases you go through along the way may impact the things you value. You will examine Greek values as you read and relate those values to modern times. You will analyze your own values and those of Greek culture to create a letter to yourself as a high school senior. Your younger self will "speak" to your older self about the values you hope to still hold as a senior.

**Brainstorm: What do you value? Think about the values that are important to you. Make a list of personal values on your paper with a brief explanation.**

Directions: List at least 7 values that either you value or you believe people your age value in today’s society. Ex: friends, religion, experiences, etc.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

From that list of 7, choose the 3 values that are most important and influential in your life.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Now, compare that to Odysseus’s journey and his values.

**NOTEBOOK CHECK #2 Sample/Outline**

**MAKE NOTES AND USE THIS AS A MODEL FOR YOUR WRITING AND THE FORMAT. Your piece may be typed or handwritten, but you must skip lines, use blue or black ink only, and you may not write on the back of the page.**

Suzie Student

Mrs. Teacher

English I (Honors)/Block

Student Model: Letter to My Future Self

Dear Suzie,

I suspect your last three years of high school have gone just as you dreamed. Although you have undoubtedly faced hardships, I hope that you have grown from those experiences and rose from the ashes armed with new knowledge and skills. I am hopeful that you still uphold some of the values that my freshman self now hold dear. Do not lose heart and do not forget that you have a very special purpose in life, just like you learned while reading Homer’s *Odyssey*. Remember Odysseus’s great journey home, how he pushed on until the end, and mirror that same persistence, Suzie. Positivity, having a good attitude in all circumstances, and determination in the face of adversity are vital to your success, but never let your thirst for knowledge and curiosity be quenched.

Positivity not only fills your life with joy and hope, but it also has an enormous effect on your peers. In every situation faced, beauty and goodness can be unearthed. Some may require more searching than others, but in time you will realize it is an unwavering truth. Negativity is a deadly poison, killing all things eventually. Strive to be like brave Odysseus, as he faced creatures such as Polyphemus, Charibdis, and Scylla and was disheartened by Circe, Calypso, and even his crew. He never gave up through struggles and heartbreaks but continued to strive for his goal- getting home to Ithaca Just like Odysseus stayed positive, you keep a care-free spirit of kindness and happiness with you, always. From my juvenile experiences alone, I have seen the ripe, radiant fruits a happy heart and positivity reap.

It is impossible to make it out of high school unscathed by some variation of suffering. Your generation is notorious for having the inability to push forward when faced with difficult obstacles. Nonetheless, never lose your sense of perseverance and determination. Remember the heroic Odysseus. Poseidon, throughout Odysseus’ journey made it increasingly difficult for Odysseus to reach home. He lost every single man in his crew, and it took him twenty years to finally make it home, but he never gave in to his anguish or sorrow. He endured the hardship and did not surrender. Also, refuse to compromise your standards or values to please others. Once Odysseus made it home, his journey was not over. He felt insecure having been gone for twenty years, so he needed to make sure that Penelope had remained true to him and then, because of his pride, he needed to punish the suitors for their insolence. Surely, like Odysseus, you have dealt with powerful pressure these last three years. Sacrificing your sense of self and forgetting what you believe in is not the way to handle this. Be strong! At times you may feel alone, despair, and unhappy. Remember that you are loved. Things will always get better.

Finally, never lose the hunger and thirst for knowledge. Continue to broaden your horizons. Remember that education is a gift. A multitude of closed doors and tightly-shut windows can be thrust open when your appetite for learning is insatiable. Try new things, be adventurous, and do not be afraid to be different. Aim to be a canvas filled with vibrant, unique colors that enchant the eye. Losing your sense of curiosity and adventure takes the whim and spontaneity out of life. Live life to the fullest and make every breath matter. Get out of your comfort zone! Odysseus listened to the Siren song. He wasn’t afraid; his curiosity and sense of adventure prevailed. He had his crew fill their ears with wax and tie him to the ship’s mast so that he could hear what no man before him had ever heard and live d to tell. Dwell upon this example and remember to take risks.

These words are not merely vague thoughts and senseless sentences. I pray that you take all these things with a full heart and try to apply my young words to life. These thoughts may be from a younger you, but ultimately it is still the same you that occupies your current existence. I hope that you have not changed so much that these wishes and ambitions are an unrecognizable clanging. Stay true to yourself, like the admirable Odysseus.

Love,

Suzie

P.S. You have so much inner beauty and that alone is a very rare quality. Don’t lose that part of yourself.

W

Works Consulted

Allen, Janet. "Unit 11: The Odyssey by Homer." Holt McDougal literature. [Evanston, Ill.]: Holt McDougal, a division of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2012. 1186-269.

"Getting Ready for Generation Z." *Management Training and Organizational*

*Development from Impact*. N.p., n.d. Web. 18 Jan. 2013.

Wendt, David. "Getting ready for Generation Z." Management Training and Organisational Development from Impact. 13 Feb. 2012. Impactinternational.com. 16 Jan. 2013 <http://www.impactinternational.com/blog/2012/02/getting-ready-generation-z>.

**Outline the Sample Essay** by writing the sentences that are represented below:

1. Introduction Paragraph
   1. Thesis statement
      1. Subtopic 1
      2. Subtopic 2
      3. Subtopic 3
2. Body Paragraph 1 Topic Sentence
   1. Support Sentence 1
      1. Odyssey Reference
   2. Support Sentence 2
   3. Support Sentence 3

(\* be sure to reference the Odyssey\*)

1. Body Paragraph 2 Topic Sentence
   1. Support Sentence 1
   2. Support Sentence 2
      1. Odyssey Reference
   3. Support Sentence 3

(\* be sure to reference the Odyssey\*)

1. Body Paragraph 3 Topic Sentence
   1. Support Sentence 1
   2. Support Sentence 2
      1. Odyssey Reference
   3. Support Sentence 3

(\* be sure to reference the Odyssey\*)

1. Conclusion

Highlight the most important issue

Restate your thesis in a different way

Leave your reader with a sense of conclusion.

Outline your own paper based on the example.

1. Introduction Paragraph
   1. Thesis statement
      1. Subtopic 1
      2. Subtopic 2
      3. Subtopic 3
2. Body Paragraph 1 Topic Sentence
   1. Support Sentence 1
   2. Support Sentence 2
   3. Support Sentence 3

(\* be sure to reference the Odyssey\*)

1. Body Paragraph 2 Topic Sentence
   1. Support Sentence 1
   2. Support Sentence 2
   3. Support Sentence 3

(\* be sure to reference the Odyssey\*)

1. Body Paragraph 3 Topic Sentence
   1. Support Sentence 1
   2. Support Sentence 2
   3. Support Sentence 3

(\* be sure to reference the Odyssey\*)

1. Conclusion

Highlight the most important issue

Restate your thesis in a different way

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**Writing Notebook Check #3: THE FIRST DRAFT**

The first draft with evidence of revision or editing (you can get anybody to help with this--these are your resources)

**Writing Notebook Check #4: FINAL DRAFT**

Your final draft- revised, edited, and formatted appropriately. Due\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Writing Notebook Check #5: METACOGNITION/REFLECTION**

**(thinking about thinking…)**

Write a brief **letter** telling me about your thinking and writing process.

Are you satisfied with your writing? Does the finished product truly reveal what you thought about the literature/writing/unit? What problems did you have? What successes did you have? What did/ didn't you like about the unit/assignment? What would you have done differently? What are you proud of? It can be typed or hand-written.