

Essay #1
Antigone by Sophocles
DUE DATE: Tuesday, September 15, 2009

Choose ONE prompt and compose a well-developed essay. Follow proper format and documentation. For this essay you may use MLA standards, but the paper must adhere to the MLA updates or you may use APA standards. Be sure to support all statements with evidence.

1. The German philosopher Hegel stated that *Antigone* represents the tragic collision of right against right, with both sides equally justified. Do you agree with this interpretation? Why or why not? Describe the moral positions of Antigone and Creon and point to the scenes and dialogues which reveal them. Does Sophocles take a stand in favor of either side? How?
2. The blind prophet, Tiresias, states to Creon that

All men make mistakes,
But a good man yields when he
Knows his course is wrong,
And repairs the evil: The only
Crime is pride.

Consider the implications of this quotation. Compose a carefully reasoned essay that explores the validity of the assertion, using examples from your reading, observation, and experience to develop your position.

3. Aristotle identifies the tragic hero as a character who falls from a lofty position because of a tragic flaw (hamartia)--normally that flaw is pride (hubris). Identify the tragic hero from the play. Analyze the scenes in which the character displays pride and identify the effects that this pride has on the character's life. How could his/her life have been different if he/she had behaved in a less prideful manner?