

## ***Oedipus* – Graded Discussion Response Prompts**

Choose 5 to answer on a separate piece of paper. Bullet pointed answers and page/line references are sufficient. This will be collected as part of your grade for this assignment.

- A) Aristotle believed that a tragic hero possessed a tragic flaw (a flaw within their character that causes their downfall). What do you believe to be Oedipus' tragic flaw? Is it his blindness? His arrogance? His rage? Something else? How does Sophocles develop this flaw throughout the play and how is it the eventual cause of his ultimate downfall.
- B) The Greeks believed that fate was inevitable, and that your fate was tied to who you were as a person. (Thus, a good person received a good fate, and a bad person got the fate they deserved.) How does Sophocles express this concept of fate through the events of this play?
- C) Based on the final chorus section, what is the overall message of the play?
- D) How does Sophocles hint that Creon is the leader that Thebes needs? How do we know that things will be better in Thebes now that Oedipus is gone?
- E) How does Sophocles use irony throughout the play? Consider especially Situational Irony (where the opposite happens of what you might expect) and Dramatic Irony (where the audience knows something the characters do not). How does this use of irony affect the viewers experience?
- F) Aristotle believed that the perfect tragedy has a tragic hero that you like and root for, contains a plot in which each action leads directly to the next (domino effect), and where there is a reversal of fortune for the hero, causing you to feel pity and sadness for their fate. He believed *Oedipus* to be the perfect tragedy, and Oedipus the perfect tragic hero. To what extent do you agree?