

Oedipus Rex Socratic Seminar

Assignment Overview:

On _____, we will conduct a Socratic seminar on *Oedipus Rex*. A Socratic seminar is a form of discussion that emphasizes discourse over debate, in which participants seek deeper understandings of a text through thoughtful dialogue. In order to prepare, you should return to the text to answer the essential questions and defend your arguments.

Essential Questions:

1. Could the Theban royal family have avoided their tragic fate?
2. Who is responsible for the play's tragic conclusion?

Goal:

To develop a cohesive argument to answer each of the essential questions.

Use the activities below to prepare for your seminar. *You must complete all of the preparations activities in order to participate in the seminar.*

Task #1:

By attempting to avoid their fate, Jocasta, Laius and Oedipus inadvertently fulfilled the very prophecy they tried to escape. Could the family have avoided this end? Select yes or no, then explain your decision using evidence from the text.

Position:	
Evidence from text:	Analysis:
Evidence from text:	Analysis:
Evidence from text:	Analysis:

Task #2:

Good intentions don't necessarily mean good choices. Select one character (or Fate), who you believe is responsible for the tragic end of *Oedipus Rex* and use this chart to identify three decisions and textual evidence that you believe led to the characters' deaths.

Character:		
Decision #1:	Evidence from text:	Analysis:
Decision #2:	Evidence from text:	Analysis:
Decision #3:	Evidence from text:	Analysis: