

Mr. Coia
Freshman English

Possible Topics for Showcase #2: *The Odyssey*

Below is a list of possible topics. Of course, you may choose something else other than these examples. I hope that these help spur your mind to an exciting topic for your assignment.

How is *Forrest Gump* a modern-day *Odyssey*?

Pick two areas (themes from our grid) in which there are similarities.

Lessons from *The Odyssey*

Homer's naturalness has made him one of the greatest poets in the world for three thousand years. We love each other as in *The Odyssey*. We hate each other as in *The Odyssey*. We are continually dealing with change, fate, and necessity, by invisible influences for good and invisible influences for evil. Discuss why we still can relate to this story today by talking about three lessons *The Odyssey* could be trying to teaching.

The Making of a Hero

An author said that Odysseus's whole problem is for him to establish his identity. He grows and learns through each experience. Name three ways Odysseus changes or grows in the story. Use examples.

Themes of *The Odyssey*

Pick a theme from the story. Explain why this works as a theme and use examples from the story. Here are some examples:

- 1 A boy must struggle to become a man.
- 2 A soldier must struggle to get home from a war.
- 3 A king must struggle reclaim a kingdom (Ithaca).

Qualities of a Hero

Pick three of Odysseus's qualities that represent a hero. Show heroic examples from the story. Discuss why these qualities are regarded by our culture as "heroic" and explain why these qualities haven't changed. You could compare Odysseus to some of today's heroes.

Strong Female Characters in *The Odyssey*

At the time *The Odyssey* was written, women's roles were ones of

submissiveness and obedience. In spite of this, *The Odyssey* shows women who are very strong characters. (Circe, Athena, Penelope, Calypso). Pick three female characters, show examples of their strength, and discuss why these are strengths. Also discuss why these strengths haven't changed over the centuries.

The use of hospitality in *The Odyssey*.

How does hospitality add to the narrative in this story? Also give examples of how hospitality is misused.

Is Odysseus a mass murderer?

Some could argue that Odysseus lost control as he gruesomely killed the suitors. Give examples of why this could be true or not.