**Essay #2 Essay: Preparation Phase**

**Overview**

This is a general overview and the research preparation element for your second essay that has Research that Reaches Out components. **You need to have all of the research prepped by September 23rd.**

**Please note there is NO writing due on this date.** In the next phase you will receive the specific writing components for your essay.

**Questions to think about in your essay:** What is a problem that exists in the United States that also exists in the world the *Odyssey*? Is there a piece of legislation out there that could be effective in solving this problem in the United States? How does the *Odyssey* inform your understanding of the problem?

**General introduction to the writing phase:** You are responsible for writing a fictional four to five-page opinion piece to the New York Times. This article should advocate for the 1) adoption of certain legislation to solve a problem in the United States and 2) Use Homer’s *Odyssey* to inform you of the nature of the problem.

**Steps to follow before writing**

**A. Problem**

a. Choose an issue from this list for the topic of your paper.
   i. Returning from war: Spousal relationships
   ii. Returning from war: Post-traumatic stress disorder/Other mental issues
   iii. Returning from war: Integrating back into society
   iv. Returning from war: Economic insecurity in the household
   v. Hospitality
   vi. Transitions from childhood to adulthood
   vii. Women’s rights/Gender roles
   viii. Approved topic: Talk to me about this option if you have an idea.

b. Research a current problem/issue from the following newspapers/think tanks based on one of the topics above. You can gain access to many of these through the library.
   i. NPR
   ii. The Atlantic
   iii. Politico
   iv. Christian Science Monitor
   v. Reuters
   vi. Associated Press
   vii. Pro-Publica
   viii. New York Times
   ix. Washington Post
   x. The Guardian (U.S. edition)
   xi. Approved sources

c. Find evidence from Homer’s *Odyssey* to show how this is a persistent problem throughout the poem. **Note: Brainstorming only required for Friday.**

**B. Solution**

a. Investigate how it would be possible to solve this problem by looking at many articles on the subject (use the previously mentioned sources to find information on how to solve the aforementioned problem).
b. Find a piece of legislation from Congress that could address the problem (it can be something proposed or something that could be proposed in the future).
   i. Lexis-Nexis Congressional
   ii. Library of Congress THOMAS Website (http://thomas.loc.gov): Thomas allows you to research bill histories, and to find examples of bills and committee reports. The history of any bill introduced from 1973 to the present can be found here. Also includes links to House and Senate websites, etc.

C. Ethical and/or Effective? Note: Brainstorming only required for Friday.
   a. Think about how the solution to the problem ethically respond to the issue at hand.
   b. Think about how the ancients add or make us think about our own modern ethical thinking.
   c. Use your research to think about how the legislation effectively addresses the problem.
   d. Think about potential counter-arguments to the effectiveness of your bill.

GBK 101: Second Paper- Writing Phase

Writing Prompt: What current problem in the modern world can we solve by providing an ethical and effective public policy? How does the Odyssey helps us understand the nature of the problem and/or inform us of potential solutions?

General introduction to the writing phase: You are responsible for writing a fictional four to five-page (1200 to 1500 words) opinion piece to the New York Times. This article should advocate for the 1) adoption of certain legislation/policy idea to solve a problem in the United States and 2) use Homer’s Odyssey to inform the audience of the nature of the problem and/or its solution.

Specific elements of the paper:

1. Content: Please note that this doesn’t mean you should organize your paper as presented in this assignment, but rather the rough amount of time you should spend on each in the paper as a whole. Often elements of these will be presented together.
   A. Introduction and conclusion (about half a page to three-fourths a page)
   B. Amount write about the problem as presented in the Odyssey (roughly three pages of content)
   C. Write about the problem as presented in the modern world (roughly a page long).
   D. Write about a piece of legislation as a solution and its effectiveness (roughly a page of content).

2. Structure: Since this assignment has to cover a bunch of ground, I highly encourage you to develop an outline to assist you in developing your paper. Be very careful about how you present your argument and evidence.

3. Style: You should write this as though you will be submitting an opinion piece to the New York Times. You will not actually submit this to real newspaper. Please reference the handouts on audience and how to write an opinion piece to guide you in the writing of this assignment. You
should be creative and make sure to adapt the requirements of the paper with the expectations of a newspaper opinion article.

4. Format:
   a. Length: Your paper should be 1500 to 1600 words long.
   b. Follow the instructions for MLA format found in your writing handbook and in the additional handout. Use MLA style for citations and your works cited list. For this paper, you will only have one text in your works cited.
   c. Please use one-inch margins, and Times New Roman (size 12) as the font. Use double spacing, but please remove spacings before and after paragraphs (in word: Home ➔ Paragraph ➔ change spacing before and after to 0 pt.).

5. Assistance: I encourage students to talk to me during the research phase and writing phase of this paper. This is a bit more complicated than your typical essay assignment.

6. Submission details
   a. Draft of thesis statement: Please submit a HARD COPY of your thesis statement in class by September 28th. Please note that this draft of your thesis statement is amendable.
   b. Draft of paper: Please submit an electronic copy of a draft of your paper to Blackboard by October 10. It should be named LastName_Paper01_012816.doc.
   c. Final Draft Due: Please submit an electronic copy of a final draft of your paper to Blackboard by October 17th. It should be named LastName_Paper01_020316.doc.