Epic Hero Essay

# The Odyssey

*The Odyssey* is a long narrative poem which recounts the adventures of the epic hero, Odysseus. He is a larger-than-life figure who undertakes great journeys and performs deeds requiring remarkable bravery and cunning. **Consider the following characteristics of an epic hero, and write a four -paragraph essay analyzing how Odysseus exemplifies this archetypal character.**

* Come from a famous family
* Extraordinary abilities
* Superhuman strength
* Craftiness
* Confidence
* Goes on great adventures
* Helped or harmed by gods or fate
* Embodies qualities valued by the culture
* Overcomes dangerous situations
* Human weaknesses



Prewrite:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Characteristics | Examples in the poem |
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|  |  |

Essay Outline:

Introduction:

* Hook
* Background Information: You may want to mention Homer, *the Odyssey*, Trojan War, obstacles, Ithaca).
* Thesis/Claim: State two ways that Odysseus exemplifies an archetypal epic hero. (Like most epic heroes, Odysseus \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Body: (**You need to use a minimum of two pieces of evidence in each body paragraph. You may want to include three).**

* Topic Sentence: State the first characteristic that qualifies Odysseus as an epic hero.
* EVIDENCE: Use a SPECIFIC example from the poem.
* Commentary/Analysis: How does this characteristic make him an epic hero?
* EVIDENCE: Use another SPECIFIC example from the poem.
* Commentary/Analysis: How does this characteristic make him an epic hero?
* Clincher/Concluding Sentence

Body: (**You need to use a minimum of two pieces of evidence in each body paragraph. You may want to include three).**

* Topic Sentence: State the second characteristic that qualifies Odysseus as an epic hero.
* EVIDENCE: Use a SPECIFIC example from the poem.
* Commentary/Analysis: How does this characteristic make him an epic hero?
* EVIDENCE: Use another SPECIFIC example from the poem.
* Commentary/Analysis: How does this characteristic make him an epic hero?
* Clincher/Concluding Sentence

Conclusion:

* Restate thesis
* Sum up main ideas
* Extend what you have written, apply what you have written, or reflect on what you have written.