***Invoking [[1]](#footnote-1)Prometheus***

So how is it that you are going to manage this seemingly monumental task of preparing for and participating in a Socratic Seminar? Well, that question brings us to quite possibly the most important **BIG QUESTION** of this entire unit: **What would Odysseus do?** For ultimately, literature is a guideline for living our lives. Many years from now when you have forgotten most of what you learned in education, hopefully you will not forget this one question. So, what would Odysseus do? Hmmm…I know! He would cheat! Thus, our class shall invoke Prometheus in order to help us accomplish this seemingly monumental task.

**How This Cheat Sheet Will Help You**

Prometheus stole my own teacher’s guide to this assignment! Use the guide below to help you prepare for the seminar.

**Mr. Duclos’ Super Top Secret Teacher’s Copy**

If my students are to perform well on this Test, they must not only use their texts to find evidence of Odysseus being a good or bad leader, but they must also consider Odysseus’ character traits! **For the characteristics of a leader are just as important as the decisions a leader makes!** Hmm… If I were to argue that Odysseus is a **bad leader**, I would try to find evidence of him exhibiting **negative** character traits, such as **selfishness**, **arrogance**, and just plain **stupidity**, just to name a few — Oh! What’s that Ancient Greek word for excessive pride?! I can’t quite recall. Note to self: Don’t reveal to the students how forgetful I am! Now, if I were to argue that Odysseus is a **good leader**, I would try to find evidence of him exhibiting **positive** character traits, such as **cleverness**, **prudence**, and **skill,** just to name a few. Oh, there was that great scene in “The Challenge” where he picks up his bow and —DING— oh, my potato is done!

 That’s not all. My students must also remember to **anticipate the opposing team’s argument**, by looking at how the evidence (sometimes the same evidence!) might be used to argue the opposite of what I want to argue! Then I must look at the evidence to **find the weaknesses in their argument** — Oh, gosh! A knock at the door. Oh, it’s Prometheus! He owes me five bucks!

Sailing from Troy (647 - 648)

40 - 47 Odysseus’ Character (negative)

 Odysseus’ decision to invade…good or bad?

 How did Odysseus intend to divide the spoils?

 Did his men listen to him?

 What does the word “mutinous” mean?

 Wait, is it Odysseus’ fault that his men didn’t listen?

63 - 66 Odysseus’ Character (Positive)

The Cyclops (650 - 662)

Oh, I have a whole reading guide AND classwork that will help me out immensely with this episode!

Scylla & Charybdis (672 - 673)

766 - 781 Odysseus’ speech

782 - 785 (leadership) (+ -)

786 - 790 (leadership) (-) I could counter this!

813 - 814 (Pathos) How could a student use this evidence to appeal to emotion?

The Lotus Eaters (649)

89 - 102 Why did Odysseus land on the island?

 What decision did Odysseus make first? …hmm.. there is good evidence showing hims as a bad leader, but an argument could be made against that claim…

 What was the reason?

 What did Odysseus do with the men who ate the lotus? (leadership)

63 - 66 Odysseus’ Character (Positive)

Notes:

Buy eggs

Pick up cheese

Call Prometheus for 5 bucks

The Land of the Dead (662 - 667)

568 - 577 What is Odysseus feeling? (Leadership)

 How does Odysseus act despite his feeling?

 What decision does Odysseus make?

614 - 619 How does Odysseus react to seeing his mommy?

 How does he deal with his grief? hmm… one of many that could be argued both ways…

Cattle of the Sun God (674 - 675)

Oh, I have classwork that can help me with this? But also…

948 - 955 (leadership) (-) Counter

975 - 990 (paraphrase) Ch. (+)

 Also, hmm… Consider what Odysseus is going through… does he succumb to hunger?

The Sirens (669 - 671)

585 - 698 How does Odysseus’ speech compare to Odysseus’ decision in “Scylla & Charybdis” on page 672, lines 782 - 785? (negative? Positive?)

 What can this tell me about his character?

 What can this tell me about him as a leader?

704 - 718 Odysseus as a leader (Positive)

The Return (681 - 686)

1034 - 1035 (+ Character trait) (I could counter this!)

1051 - 1052 (- Character trait) (I could counter this!)

1061 - 1067 (- Character trait) (Counter?!)

1116 - 1163 Paraphrase (What is Odysseus and his son doing? Is this a characteristic of a good leader?)

Argus

Oh no, this chapter is so sad. Wow, if I had a dollar for every time Odysseus cried throughout this whole poem! I guess one could argue both sides of that!

The Suiters (688 - 690)

1225 - 1232 (+ Character trait)

Odysseus’ Revenge and Penelope’s Test (697 - 705)

I recently did a homework assignment on these two! That should guide me!

1. Student Teach
2. ???????
3. Profit
1. The god of forethought, the god of intelligence, a trickster, and as a champion of humanity, because he stole fire from Hephaestus, and brought it to mortals (for which he suffered great consequences). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)