***What is a Text-based Discussion?***

For the end of our unit on *The Odyssey*, you will be participating in a text-based discussion in the form of a Socratic Seminar. Named after the classical Greek philosopher Socrates, a Socratic Seminar is a form of cooperative argumentative discussion based on asking and answering questions to stimulate critical thinking.

For our seminar, the class will be split up into two groups. **One group will use evidence from *The Odyssey* to argue that Odysseus is a good leader. The other group will use evidence from *The Odyssey* to argue that Odysseus is a bad leader.** The loosing team will be forced to drink hemlock.

**To score well, you must be**

1. **Prepared** - Did you bring notes with you? Do you have your book with you? (10% of your test grade actually starts today, as I will be monitoring the class in order to check for how well you are staying on-task, how well you are working with your team, and the quality of your prepared work).
2. **Knowledgeable about the Text-** Since this will be counting as a test grade, I will be looking for you to make *references to the text specifically* (i.e.: “If you look at page 678, Odysseus says….which shows that he is a good leader because…”)
3. **Respectful-** This also means knowing when to allow others to speak. You may have a lot of ideas, but it’s important to get others involved. It is up to *you* as a group to keep the conversation going.
   * 1. **A tip:** Use phrases like “I agree with (Student X) because…” or “I have to disagree with you, (Student Y) because…” or “(Student Z) what do you think about Odysseus as a leader?
     2. **This also means you are talking to and making eye contact with your classmates, not your teacher.**
4. **A Participating Audience Member**- You will be assigned one classmate to score when you are not participating in the discussion. We will also have a “hot seat” that you can jump into to make a point. **You will lose points, however, if you are talking to a friend or not paying attention to the conversation**.

***\*You must be present for your Socratic Seminar in order to participate. If you cut class, you will receive a zero, and if you are absent, you will need to provide a note excusing that absence. See me with questions/concerns.***

***Preparing for a Text-based Discussion***

* Preparing for a text-based discussion has several important elements. Similarly to lawyers, once you know the position you are to argue, the next steps are to **gather your evidence**, **explain the evidence**, and **interpret the evidence in a way that supports your position.**
* Equally as important is **considering how the other team** representing the contrasting position, **will use their evidence to argue their position against YOU**.
* This means that you must anticipate their interpretation of the evidence and **consider in advance, how you will [[1]](#footnote-1)refute that evidence.**

**Step 1: *Gather Your Materials***

Throughout this unit, you have been conducting research in the form of both homework and classwork assignments. The following materials can help you and your team immensely. Locate the following materials and place a check next to them.

1.\_\_\_ “The Cyclops” Reading Guide Homework

2.\_\_\_ “The Cyclops” Video Guided Lesson Classwork

3.\_\_\_ Diary entries parts I and II

4.\_\_\_ “The Cattle of the Sun God” Video Guided Lesson Classwork

5.\_\_\_ “Odysseus’ Revenge” and “Penelope’s Test” Homework

6.\_\_\_ Your textbook

***How your textbook can help you***

1. At the beginning of each episode of *The Odyssey* is often an *italicized* introduction that will help you quickly and

efficiently recall the events of the chapter.

2. **IMPORTANT: At the end of each episode of *The Odyssey* are questions that can** help you recall the events of the chapter and in several instances **GIVE YOU EXCELLENT IDEAS ABOUT HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR ARGUMENT.**

1. prove to be wrong or false; disprove [↑](#footnote-ref-1)