

UNIT 2: DESTINY

Final Writing Assignment

PROMPT: You will write a two-to-three-page research paper arguing how a modern-day hero (sports-related, political, entertainment-focused, etc) fulfills most, if not all, of the characteristics of the tragic hero as listed below. Research this tragic hero and submit a works cited page with **at least three credible sources**. You will need **4 cited examples of text evidence** for this essay. In your conclusion, you will reflect on the universal lesson that this individual's tragic fall teaches humanity.

COMMON CHARACTERISTICS OF A TRAGIC HERO

- 1) The character must be of noble/high stature.
- 2) The character has a tragic flaw, which begins as a positive character trait.
- 3) The character's tragic flaw leads to a reversal of fortune or downfall.
- 4) His or her actions result in improved self-awareness and self-knowledge.
- 5) The character experiences a spiritual or literal death. The audience feels pity and fear for this character.

CRITERIA

- Follow MLA format.
- Make sure your essay has a unique title.
- Include a Works Cited page at the end of the essay.
- Minimum 4 citations/quotes (1-2 per source). Cite sources parenthetically using the last name of the author, or one unique word from the title of the article in quotes. (Smith 19) or ("Tragic" 19)

ORGANIZATION (SEE OUTLINE FOR MORE DETAILS):

- **Introduction:** Begin with an attention-grabbing statement on heroes, both traditional and modern-day. Next, briefly define "tragic hero." Finally, end with a **thesis statement** where you explain whether or not your person is a modern-day tragic hero.
- **Body Paragraph 1:** Make your TOPIC SENTENCE argue why your hero has a high position in society, but has a tragic flaw. Be sure to identify the exact flaw.
- **Body Paragraph 2:** Make your TOPIC SENTENCE argue how the tragic flaw leads to the *hero's downfall / reversal of fortune* and an eventual *spiritual or literal death*.
- **Body Paragraph 3:** Make your TOPIC SENTENCE explain whether the hero does or does not gain *improved self-awareness and / or self-knowledge* and whether or not we *should feel pity and fear* for the hero.
- **Conclusion:** Explain what was learned through the life of this tragic hero. How did his/her actions result in improved self-awareness/and or self-knowledge? What universal lesson does this individual's tragic fall teach humanity?

REMINDERS:

- Write in the appropriate verb tense—what is past is past; what is present is present.
- **Do not use the pronouns "I," "you," or "we"** unless they are part of a quote and have been used properly and effectively in the sentence.
- Write out all contractions.
- Incorporate quotes rather than using block quotes. (Never use a quote as a sentence itself)
- Vary sentence structure (use phrases and clauses at start of sentences)
- Avoid vague language such as "things" and unclear pronouns ("this" and "which")
- Do not start a sentence with "It" or "There"; use more concrete and informative language.
- Avoid passive tense and weak verbs (especially "is/are" and "says").