

Based on your reading The Iliad through Book 16, write an essay of at least four paragraphs **explaining what Homer thought caused human actions to occur and come out the way they did** (his view of causation). Think about why people act as they do in The Iliad and why activities succeed and fail. In discussing the inter-relationship among the gods, Fate and people, be sure to give examples from the reading and explain whether our modern view of causation is similar to or different from Homer's. Consider how Homer's view of causation would affect the moral/ethical outlook of those who shared his view. **Be sure that your essay contains a minimum of two specific examples that support your view of what Homer thought caused things to happen.** These examples do not have to agree in their attitude toward causation. **Be sure you get through Book 16!**

*In your **introduction**, begin, as always, by defining terms. Introduce your topic, the work in question and provide a framework for your essay. Be sure to close this paragraph with a thesis statement, a single sentence that lays out clearly the main point of your essay (your opinion about Homer's view of causation).

*In the **first body paragraph**, discuss in depth one example that supports your view about **Homer's view of causation**. Use parenthetical notes to show whence your evidence comes. In the case of The Iliad, your notes should be (Iliad book number in Roman numerals) as writing Homer doesn't help much in deciding if it's the Iliad or Odyssey. If your edition has line numbers, add those as well (Iliad VII 227-30). Be sure that your first sentence indicates the topic of the paragraph in some way and that the last sentence sums up the main point of your paragraph and shows how your example connects to the main theme of the essay.

*In the **second body paragraph**, discuss in depth another example that supports your view about **Homer's view of causation**. Use parenthetical notes to show whence your evidence comes. Be sure that your first sentence indicates the topic of the paragraph in some way and that the last sentence sums up the main point of your paragraph and shows how your example connects to the main theme of the essay. While the two examples need not agree in their view of causation, you must meld them into an overall view of causation (on Homer's part) in your conclusion. That may mean a nuanced viewpoint, which is generally a good thing.

*In your **conclusion**, summarize and synthesize Homer's view of causation and compare it with our culture's. Discuss how one's view of causation would affect one's attitude toward morals/ethics and how this might have worked with Homer's viewpoint. (This requires thought rather than reading: sorry!) Close with a strong statement of your overall point.

Please do this without reference to outside sources. I am more interested in your ideas than someone else's, and this will help you learn to analyze better, which using someone else's ideas won't. **If you must go to outside sources, they MUST be cited even if you put an idea into your own words**, but I don't want you to go to outside sources. **Failure to cite sources will mean no credit in the class.** Come see me to discuss the topic before the deadline if you are stuck rather than going to an outside source.

Due: Thursday, September 12 by 9 a.m.

Revision Due: Monday, September 23 by 9 a.m. with the marked up draft

A late draft or revision will mean an extra essay