

#4: Ritual and Social Order in the *Odyssey*: Pre-Writing Textual Analysis Grid

Assignment: You have been asked to develop a close reading of a passage chosen by your section leader. This pre-writing exercise is designed to help you start the process of generating material for a thesis about the function of ritual and unwritten law in the social order of the *Odyssey*. Go step by step, taking only one key word or short phrase at a time, to help yourself articulate responses to the words that strike you as particularly meaningful. When you finish with your first word or phrase, draw a line across the page and start again; you will need to make more than one sheet. Before you start, review Prof. Lupton's lectures and your *Handbook* (75-81, 91-98). Study the model passage at <http://e3.uci.edu/programs/humcore/odsup.htm>. Locate reference tools (dictionary, Glossary 361-374, etc.).

- 1] Mark any key words or short phrases in the text you find especially interesting or as suggested.
- 2] Then go step by step for each key word or short phrase. You may leave the "So What?" column for later, if you choose.
- 3] Look at your results. Fill in the gap if a column has an empty space. You may use arrows or highlighters to make connections or contrasts.
- 4] Look at the "So What?" column. Why and how do people in this passage use ritual to establish, undermine, or restore social order? Do you see a clear message, or ambiguity? Why is this ritual important for the characters performing it? For some larger group, *oikos*, or audience? How does Homer's use of language relate this ritual to the structure of the poem as a whole?

PAGE	PARAPHRASE	KEY WORD[S]	WHY IS <i>THIS</i> WORD/PHRASE INTERESTING?	SO WHAT?
Line #	Use your own words	Significant word/phrase? Quote exactly here.	Hospitality? Warfare? Marriage? Gifts? Contests? Sacrifice? Supplication? Song? Storytelling? Agriculture? Appeal to <i>ELP</i> : Ethos, Logos, Pathos? Unspoken premise? Indications of gender or class structure?	How do the <u>characters</u> respect or disrespect ritual here? What might this show the <u>audience</u> or <u>reader</u> ?