

# *Passage Journal*

## *The Odyssey*

Purpose: The purpose of this assignment is for you to apply concepts discussed in class to a work of literature, learn to focus on and annotate reading, and prepare evidence for a timed writing.

Method: You will achieve this purpose by keeping a journal of excerpts and commentary as you read the *Odyssey*.

Details: This ongoing assignment is due each time a chapter of reading is due, and is worth 80 points (you will have 16 5-point sections due throughout, for 16 chapters that we read), entered into TEAMS at the end of the text.

**No late work accepted.**

Procedure: As you read the *Odyssey*, pull out excerpts that strike you and copy them onto your own paper. Cite the Book and line numbers for each excerpt, and then write **5 sentences** of commentary. Your commentary should explore the Nature of Man, The Four Questions, Greek culture and values, Rhetorical Appeals, imagery, the Hero Cycle, and/ or use of literary devices including Homeric Similes, motif, and juxtaposition. All deep and thoughtful commentary is acceptable, including any way in which you connect with the text or inspire discussion.

Copy and analyze **one** excerpt per Book. The excerpts should be **2-3 sentences** long and properly cited. Beneath the excerpt, be sure to **put it in context** of the story. See the example below. You may format as you please, but below is recommended.

Every time our assignment calendar states that you must have a book read, I will spot check your passage journal for the five points and initial it; you will keep this in your binder at all times. Then, when we finish the book, I will collect the entire journal and assign a grade. If you are absent on a due date, come get it initialed immediately upon your return.

**You may not ever get credit for a late passage journal, nor use a late slip.**

<u>Source</u>	<u>Excerpt</u>	<u>Commentary</u>
Book 1, lines 132- 141	<p>“First by far to see her was Prince Telemachus, sitting among the suitors, heart obsessed with grief. He could almost see his magnificent father, here... in the mind’s eye—if only <i>he</i> might drop from the clouds and drive these suitors all in a rout throughout the halls and regain his pride of place and rule his own domains! Daydreaming so as he sat among the suitors, he glimpsed Athena now and straight to the porch he went, mortified that a guest might still be standing at the doors.”</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Context</u></p> <p>This is when Athena first approaches Telemachus to help him find his father Odysseus. He is beginning to give up hope but is still fantasizing about his father’s return home and the end of the 108 suitors.</p>	<p>This is a vivid and powerful scene. Pathos is evoked with Telemachus longing for his father’s return. However, there also seems to be optimistic foreshadowing towards Odysseus’ return and how he might treat all the suitors when he sees how his home has been dishonored, which brings hope to erase the <i>aidos</i> that Telemachus is now suffering through. There is obvious <i>xenia</i> here as well since we see Telemachus concerned that no one has greeted the man that Athena is disguised as, and has left her at the doors. Finally, due to the repetition of the phrase “among the suitors”, in such a complex and compound sentence, and the euphemism “drop from the clouds,” we can see how overwhelmed Telemachus is with the suitors and how much he needs help from his father or any other magic that could relieve the situation.</p>