

WWA #5 – Opposing Forces

The classic set of opposing forces in literature is Good vs. Evil. Fortunately, Sophocles gives us a much more complex set of opposing forces in *Antigone*. For this assignment, you will choose one “pair” to discuss in a short essay.

Some opposing forces we've discussed in class are:

- Laws of Man vs. Justice of Gods
- Men vs. Women
- Individual vs. Many (or the State)
- Loyalty to family vs. Loyalty to Nation
- Humans vs. Gods
- Obedience & Stability vs. Rebellion & Instability

This is far from a complete list – Sophocles wrote a tightly wound play full of many conflicts! How else was he supposed to make it interesting, since the audience would have already known the ending??

Your JOB:

- Choose the conflict/tension that you think is most essential to the meaning of the play as a whole
- Use textual evidence to prove that conflict exists in the play
- Describe how the conflict affects the characters/action of the play
- Explain why that conflict is central to the play as a whole

****See reverse side for organizer****

Question	Your Answer
1. What, in a few sentences, is <i>Antigone</i> about?	
2. Of all the tensions in the play, which is the most significant?	
3. Why is this tension the most significant to the play as a whole?	
4. Where does this tension first become apparent? (NEEDS QUOTE)	
5. What does that quote mean in context?	
6. How does that quote frame the tension you are writing about (or one side of it)?	
7. How does this relate to the play as a whole (ahem, your thesis)?	
8. Where does the tension appear again? (NEEDS QUOTE)	
9. What does this quote mean in context?	
10. How does that quote reflect the tension you are writing about (or one side of it)?	
11. How does this relate to the play as a whole (ahem, your thesis again)?	
12. How does this tension influence the action of the play and the characters experiencing that action?	
13. Why does everything you just said matter in the context of the whole play? Beyond, even?	