

CLA 024 Essay Guidelines

I. Layout:

generous 1 page. Single-spaced. 1 inch margins (top, bottom, sides). 10 or 12 point Times, black only.
BE SURE TO SPELL-CHECK YOUR ESSAY.

II. Form

Put the following title information ONLY on one line at top of page, in boldface:

Title

Your Name (CLA 024)

The essay, which may have three paragraphs maximum, should have some version of the following ingredients:

- A. Statement of thesis / hypothesis / point of interest.
- B. Discussion and analysis of relevant evidence.
- C. Global conclusion drawn from the details of B.

III. Treatment of Evidence

A. Citations: Whatever the topic, you must cite passages from the *Iliad* and/or *Odyssey* to support your argument. Put citations in parentheses, generally at the end of the sentence unless clarity requires otherwise. Abbreviate *Iliad* as *Il.*, *Odyssey* as *Od.* Do not include Homer's name. Use the minimal information while maintaining clarity: *Od.* 4.112–4, not *Od.* 4.112–114. If you are citing evidence from one poem only, write *Il.* or *Od.* in your first reference only; subsequent citations are assumed to be from the same poem unless you specify otherwise. Example: Odysseus is compared to a singer stringing his lyre (*Od.* 21.404–11). You may have several passages which bear on the same point: you can add these as follows: *Od.* 21.404–11; cp. 18.35–41. Here 'cp.' means 'compare'.

B. Quotations: You may also need to *quote* passages. Quotations must be "in-line": do not make a new paragraph and set it off from the main body of your text. Do not quote any more than you need for your argument. When you have a quote, give the citation for it as above.

C. Secondary Sources and Other Evidence: This is an exercise in "clarifying Homer from Homer" (an ancient expression / critical principle which goes back to the scholars of the Alexandrian library). You do not need to cite any scholarly literature or other external evidence (archeological, other ancient authors, ethnographic analogy). Of course you may supplement your argument with such material. If you do, put the reference in an endnote, NOT a footnote, on a second page. These references must be consistently formatted. Do not cite any URLs: all secondary references must be to hard-copy sources. Of course the internet is very helpful for locating such sources, and Bailey-Howe will have most of the standard ones. BH has many literary studies of Homer and useful handbooks, collections of essays, etc., in English. These are on the 3rd Floor in the PA section, the 4000 range of numbers (Greek authors are arranged alphabetically, so e.g. the Homer books come before the Hesiod books). Relevant historical and archaeological studies are scattered throughout the library, so use the catalogue.

IV. Assessment

Your essay will be assessed EQUALLY for its contents AND adherence to the above formatting. This may seem nitpicky. But many of you will need to write regularly in your career. Develop orderly habits now. Clarity, concision and consistency in writing cultivates the same virtues in the thought process. In Cato's famous dictum: *Rem tene, verba sequentur* ('Grasp the problem, and the words will follow').