

PAPER #1

Choose *one* of the following two passages and write an essay of 4 to 5 pages (typed and double-spaced) either supporting *or* opposing the position advanced in the passage chosen:

1) If we compare Antigone, in Sophocles' play, with characters in the *Iliad*, she appears, at first glance, to be closer to Hector, who is bound by honor to return and fight even when he knows he is doomed, than she is to Achilles. But on closer examination, it is clear that she is, in personality and motivation, much closer to Achilles.

2) Agamemnon, in the *Iliad*, and Creon, in Sophocles' *Antigone*, are both essentially good rulers who are faced with the awkward problem of dealing with unruly radicals (Achilles and Antigone) who refuse to accept their authority. Both Homer and Sophocles sympathize with the plights of the kings.

In grading your essays I will be looking for:

- thorough familiarity with the readings and lectures relevant to the topic
- evidence for your views in the form of quotations from the works discussed
- a thoughtfully constructed essay that has been carefully proof-read.

By putting your name on the paper, you are affirming that the work is your own, and is in conformity with the VT Honor Code.

Your paper will be due at the beginning of class on Monday, March 20th.