Odyssey of Life: Reflective Essay

Ideas you’ll be pondering for this assignment:

* **In what ways is the story of The Odyssey like a journey of life?**

* **How are some of the challenges, obstacles and/or choices encountered by Odysseus similar to ones you have faced or expect to face in the future? Or how are they different?**

* **What part of Homer’s epic is the most important for us to understand today? Why?**

In this **seven-chunk essay**, you must use specific examples from both your life as well as *The Odyssey*. This means you can use first person “I” in this essay; I am sure you are excited about that!

For more help, use this “essay map” to write this **seven-chunk essay**:

1st Paragraph:

   Explain the basic idea of how *The Odyssey* is like a journey of life with a brief explanation why. This paragraph must include the following information – a “big-idea” lead in, introductory sentence noting the author and title, and a thesis statement that alludes to your body paragraphs. Two of your body paragraphs will focus on the Odyssey and the final one will focus on your own experiences, so think about that when forming your thesis statement.

2nd & 3rd Paragraphs:

   Provide more detail on the reasons listed in your introductory paragraph and use specific examples from Odysseus’ journey. You might want to explain how some of his trials represent some issue in real life. In these paragraphs, make sure to include a topic statement and use quotes from the text to support your thinking. Remember to cite the line number according to MLA formatting. For example:

   It was wise for you to send your messenger in the form of an old beggar “who swears on the noblest of the gods/ that these things shall turn out as he says” (1193-1194).

   Note that there is a slash when there is a break in the line.

   Also note that the in-text citation is at the END of the sentence.
4th Paragraph:

Make the connection to the journey of life by including specific examples from your own life (this is where you’ll incorporate facts from you life that aren’t quotes) that are similar or dissimilar to *The Odyssey*.

5th Paragraph:

Explain what part of *The Odyssey* is the most important for us to understand today and why. This paragraph must be at least 5 sentences and can include references to ideas mentioned in previous paragraphs but would be even better if you left the reader with something more to think about.

You will be graded based on the following:

__/30 Ideas & Content
__/30 Organization
__/10 Word choice
__/10 Voice
__/10 Sentence Fluency
__/10 Conventions
__/100

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