**Memo**

**Today you need to respond to each one of the questions below. I will be expecting you to print up place this document in your ERWC folder in your Mydocs account. The fuller your answers the more helpful this exercise will be. Obviously, when you are done you will be able to use many of your responses in your research paper.**

**Tragic Hero Definition**

**ERWC**

**The following is a summary of his basic ideas regarding the tragic hero; you should discuss each one of these categories in your paper:**

**Please discuss how your candidate fits category 1 4-6 sentences should suffice.**

**1.  The tragic hero is a character of noble stature and has greatness.  This should be readily evident in the play.  The character must occupy a "high" status position but must ALSO embody nobility and virtue as part of his/her innate character.**

**Please discuss how your candidate fits category 2. 3-5 sentences should suffice. Also, use a quote in this discussion**

**2.  Though the tragic hero is pre-eminently great, he/she is not perfect.  Otherwise, the rest of us--mere mortals--would be unable to identify with the tragic hero.  We should see in him or her someone who is essentially like us, although perhaps elevated to a higher position in society.**

**What was your candidates fatal flaw? Provide examples of his fatal flaw. 5-7 sentences should suffice.**

**3.  The hero's downfall, therefore, is partially her/his own fault, the result of free choice, not of accident or villainy or some overriding, malignant fate.  In fact, the tragedy is usually triggered by some error of judgment or some character flaw that contributes to the hero's lack of perfection noted above.   This error of judgment or character flaw is known as hamartia and is usually translated as "tragic flaw" (although some scholars argue that this is a mistranslation).  Often the character's hamartia involves hubris (which is defined as a sort of arrogant pride or over-confidence).**

**Did your candidate deserve the consequences of his/her actions? 4-6 sentences should do it.**

**4.  The hero's misfortunate is not wholly deserved. The punishment exceeds the crime.**

**Well, did your candidate increase in awareness? What evidence supports your answer? Provide examples.**

**5.  The fall is not pure loss. There is some increase in awareness, some gain in self-knowledge, some discovery on the part of the tragic hero.**

**How does your candidate relate to quality 6? Does it leave one depressed? Or does it leave a person thinking that, “I would never do that!” Explain in 3-5 sentences.**

1. **Though it arouses solemn emotion, tragedy does not leave its audience in a state of depression.  Aristotle argues that one function of tragedy is to arouse the "unhealthy" emotions of pity and fear and through a catharsis (which comes from watching the tragic hero's terrible fate) cleanse us of those emotions.**

**Finally, what can you learn from your tragic hero? 4-6 sentences and be specific.**