

## The *Odyssey* Paper: Grading and Help with Quotes

### Help with Using Quotes

1. Try to use only the pieces of the quote that you need omitting unnecessary parts. Ellipses (three dots, or four if a period is included) indicate that part has been left out. Brackets (not parentheses) indicate that you have inserted something.

Ex: When Odysseus sees “the fuddle. . .come over [kyklops],” he (etc.)

2. Rather than quoting whole sentences, try to get quoted phrases into sentences of your own that make a point. (That helps keep the paper from seeming wordy and repetitive.)

Ex: Telemakhos thinks that he has been talking to a god because his guest has “put new spirit” in him. (The quoted phrase is effective because actual words from the text make your point. Putting new spirit in him isn’t an opinion; it’s a “fact.”)

3. To get the most from what you quote, follow up with something that helps the reader see why that particular quote makes the point. (Don't just repeat the general point again.) Focus on key words in the quote.

**No:** The speaker expresses extreme hate towards Brother Lawrence, as, for example, when he says, "Gr-r--there go, my heart's abhorrence! Water your damn flower pots, do!" (315). The speaker in this instance shows disgust.

**Yes:** The speaker expresses extreme hate towards Brother Lawrence as, for example, when he starts out with "grr-r"--a snarl like a dog's (315). He hates Brother Lawrence so much that he even damns the man's flower pots. What could be obnoxious about watering flowers? His "abhorrence" has him muttering to himself about trivial things.

**Note:** The title of a book should be in italics or underlined: *The Odyssey* or The Odyssey—NOT “The Odyssey.”

### Grading:

**C:** Follows directions given in the assignment, for example.

Focuses on a component characteristic that makes Odysseus a survivor and hero

Supports with SEEE

Draws evidence only from Book V

Errors (punctuation, grammar, spelling) do not distract a reader

**B:** All of the above plus

Shows (vivid evidence that “makes a movie” for the reader)

Provides a logical order and “flows” (coherent connections, effective sentences)

Provides a good introduction and conclusion

**A:** Stands out in a crowd

A definition that really helps with the context, that is used in the essay

Unusually perceptive (choice of evidence, the way the evidence is explained)

Complex reasoning (able to take into account possible confusions and objections of a reader; provides qualifications)

A good argument as to why the characteristic is distinctive (unlike what is generally expected of heroes)