

Literature

STUDENT NAME

4/9/13

Fifth Revision

Two of the most prominent characters in the Iliad are Achilles and Agamemnon. While Agamemnon is more often mentioned in the story, Achilles is an equally important character, for the story centers around his rage towards Agamemnon. Although Agamemnon and Achilles were both great warriors, they were very different in the ways they treated the safety of the troops, in how they led the army, and why they were fighting at Troy.

Where the safety of the troops is concerned, Agamemnon and Achilles differed drastically. Agamemnon was not worried about the troops. He called them to go to Troy and asked them to put their lives at risk to win back Helen, his brother's wife. When the need arose, he would not allow his brother to fight against Hector or to go on the night raid with Diomedes, but he urged others to do so. He was more concerned about the safety of his brother, Menelaus, than the army he had called together. Achilles, on the other hand, was concerned with the safety of the troops. Even though he had withdrawn from battle, he sent Patroclus to find out who was hurt when he saw them bringing the wounded back to camp. Unlike Agamemnon, Achilles was willing to send his best friend into battle to help the Greeks when they were pushed up against their ships. Achilles showed more concern for the safety of all, rather than for one man who was close to him.

Even though Agamemnon was chosen to lead the Greek army, Achilles was the better leader. Agamemnon could not encourage the troops to fight well. *Even though you didn't change anything in this paragraph, except to add "to fight well," that was enough to clarify the rest of the paragraph for me, so that I can now understand what you are saying. It may well be that I simply didn't read it well enough*

the first time, but this is an example of the importance of thoroughness and attention to detail. It is very easy as a writer to be tempted to leave out some details (or to forget them), assuming that readers will be able to fill in any that seem obvious to the writer. Excellent writers, however (which you are well on your way to becoming), always review their work by trying to experience their writing as if for the very first time the way the reader does. In this way the writer can better catch problems like this that are too small to catch otherwise. In the beginning of the *Iliad*—note italics; all titles of books, epics, and so on need to be underlined or italicized., he tried to use trickery to encourage them by saying that they should return home. He hoped that they would rise up and defy him, and when his plan did not work, others had to convince the army not to abandon the cause at Troy. He also angered Achilles, the best Greek warrior, causing Achilles to withdraw from the battle. This not only demoralized the Greeks, but also greatly encouraged the Trojans. On the other hand, Achilles was a great leader. He did not even have to be heading out to battle with the troops to be able to encourage them, such as when he inspired the troops before Patroclus led them into battle. Finally able to give up his anger at Agamemnon, he returned to battle as a better leader after Patroclus had died. Agamemnon, on the other hand, refused to admit his wrongs. He ignored the need for the best Greek fighter to return to battle. This revealed one of the poor choices Agamemnon made as a leader. Although Agamemnon was the leader of all the Greek forces at Troy, Achilles would have been better suited to this role, because of his ability to inspire and to set aside personal struggles to help the cause.

Although Achilles and Agamemnon were both fighting for the return of Helen, they were driven by different personal motivations. Agamemnon was more focused on the power he had while he was living rather than the legacy that would live on after he has died. He saw Achilles as a threat to his power, so he humiliated him in front of the Greeks. Later, he was unwilling to apologize for the wrong he had done to Achilles. Also, Agamemnon was overprotective of his brother; C, not SC because he wanted to make sure he did not lose his power. If Menelaus died, there would be no reason to stay at

Troy and he would no longer be in charge. Achilles, however, was more worried about the recognition he would receive after his death than anything else. This desire was what led to his rage when Agamemnon took away his prize, the maiden, Briseis. She represented the honor he had received in battle, but more importantly, his legacy. One fought for the recognition he would receive while he was alive, while the other fought for the reputation that would live on after his death.

In the beginning, Achilles and Agamemnon fought with each other for selfish reasons and could not see beyond their rage. Because of this, the quality of their leadership suffered and they both cared little about the safety of the troops. In the end, **however**, Achilles was able to see beyond his rage. He showed concern for the troops' safety, the quality of his leadership improved, and his reasons for fighting were no longer selfish. On the other hand, the effectiveness of Agamemnon's leadership declined and the whole army suffered because he would not let go of his anger.

INTERMEDIATE RUBRIC: EXPOSITORY

GRADING KEY:

GM=GOAL MASTERY

AM=ALMOST-THERE MASTERY

MM=MID-LEVEL MASTERY

LM=LOW-LEVEL MASTERY

NP=NOT PRESENT IN ESSAY

TRAIT 1: STIMULATING IDEAS

_____GM_____ 1. Thesis statement/projected plan are clear and focused on a single idea with a specific purpose.

__GM__MM_____ 2. Paper includes an introduction with an appropriate hook and a conclusion that echoes and wraps up the main idea. **Much better.**

_GM__AM_____ 3. Paper uses appropriate details/examples/reasons/evidence/etc.

_____GM_____ 4. Paper shows evidence of effort to interest and/or entertain the reader (enthusiasm, illustrations, etc.).

TRAIT 2: LOGICAL ORGANIZATION

_____AM_____ 5. Paper has well-developed paragraphs (topic sentences with plenty of support and transitions... The only reason I am giving you AM here is that your paper lacks quotes. Anytime you are doing literary analysis textual evidence is important to support your statements. It's kind of like a research paper but confined to only one source. It's okay to summarize and paraphrase parts of the story as some of your textual evidence, but you also need some direct quotes.

__GM__AM_____ 5. ...that follow a clear and logical structure without rambling or irrelevant ideas added.

_____GM_____ 6. Paper provides clear and smooth transitions between paragraphs.

TRAIT 3: ENGAGING VOICE

_____GM_____ 7. Author speaks clearly and seems knowledgeable about the subject.

_____GM_____ 8. Author has a personal voice—paper does not sound like a textbook, unless paper is very formal, or as though it is trying to sound like someone else.

TRAIT 4: EFFECTIVE WORD CHOICE

_____GM_____ 8. Paper seems to be addressing a specific audience and shows attention to it by using appropriate tone and vocabulary, including explanations of any unusual terms.

_____NP_____ 9. Paper is introduced with an appropriate title.

TRAIT 5: EFFECTIVE SENTENCE STYLE

_____GM_____ 10. Paper flows smoothly from one idea to the next—not choppy, rambling, or hard to follow

__GM__AM_____ 11. Paper maintains a consistent tense—past, present, or future.

TRAIT 6: CORRECT/ ACCURATE COPY

__GM__AM_____ 12. Paper observes the basic rules of writing (proper spelling, mechanics, and grammar). Still a couple of mistakes but nothing major. Look them over, though, and make sure you understand why they are mistakes. Let me know if you don't.

_____NA_____ 13. All direct and indirect quotations are supported with appropriate credit tags (such as, “According to so-and-so...” or “So-and-so says in such-and-such book that...”)

_____GM_____ 14. Paper is typed or written neatly with appropriate formatting. This includes the following: 11-, 12-, or 13-point type size, a basic serif font, double-spacing, 1” margins, paragraph indentations, and no extra spaces between paragraphs.

_____NA_____ 15. When published sources are used to support the paper's ideas, a Works Cited page is included that includes at least the titles and authors. (I do not require this in a paper that analyzes or responds to only one or two works of literature; however, the title and author need to be stated clearly in the paper).

Here is guidance on how to use, format, and document sources for this kind of paper.

<http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/QuoLiterature.html>

GENERAL COMMENTS:

NAME, I know I gave you a lot of comments, but you generally have a strong paper here. It has a clear structure and lots of detailed examples, both very important. Let me know if you have any questions or if anything I said confused you. By the way, “C” and “DC” mean “comma” and “delete comma”

Definitely improved, NAME. The only thing to work on now for your next paper is adding textual evidence/support in the form of direct and indirect quotations.