

## **Compare and Contrast Essay Outline on Oedipus and Hamlet**

### **I. Introduction**

- A. Briefly introduce the two characters, Oedipus and Hamlet.
- B. Provide some context about their respective plays, "Oedipus Rex" and "Hamlet."
- C. State the purpose of the essay: to compare and contrast these two tragic figures in literature.

### **II. Background Information**

- A. Provide a brief overview of the stories and their settings.
- B. Introduce the authors, Sophocles and William Shakespeare.
- C. Highlight the cultural and historical contexts of the plays.

### **III. Character Development**

- A. Describe the characteristics and personalities of Oedipus and Hamlet.
  - 1. Oedipus: Noble, confident, and proactive.
  - 2. Hamlet: Thoughtful, indecisive, and introspective.
- B. Analyze the factors contributing to their character development.
  - 1. Oedipus's determination to solve the Sphinx's riddle.
  - 2. Hamlet's inner conflict and hesitation.

### **IV. Tragic Flaws**

- A. Identify the tragic flaws of Oedipus and Hamlet.

1. Oedipus's pride and arrogance.
  2. Hamlet's indecisiveness and overthinking.
- B. Discuss how these flaws lead to their downfall and tragic circumstances.

## **V. Relationships with Family**

- A. Explore Oedipus's complex relationship with his parents.
1. Oedipus's unknowing marriage to his mother and killing of his father.
- B. Examine Hamlet's troubled relationship with his family.
1. Hamlet's father's murder and his mother's hasty remarriage to his uncle.

## **VI. Response to Fate and Destiny**

- A. Analyze how Oedipus and Hamlet respond to their predestined fates.
1. Oedipus's relentless pursuit of the truth.
  2. Hamlet's contemplation of his role in the grand scheme of things.
- B. Discuss the role of prophecy and supernatural elements in their stories.

## **VII. Revenge and Justice**

- A. Examine the theme of revenge in both plays.
1. Oedipus's quest for justice for the city of Thebes.
  2. Hamlet's desire to avenge his father's murder.
- B. Compare and contrast their approaches to seeking justice and revenge.

## **VIII. Conclusion**

A. Summarize the key points of comparison and contrast between Oedipus and Hamlet.

B. Restate the significance of their tragic flaws, family relationships, responses to fate, and quests for justice.

C. Offer some insights into the enduring relevance and impact of these characters in literature and drama.

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