Name: Date: Period:

**Is Oedipus a tragic hero?**

Define:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Characteristics of a tragic hero:** | **Oedipus as a tragic hero proof + parenthetical documentation** |
| Generally highborn /noble stature | Yes /No |
| Must exhibit honorable qualities (must be “good”) | Yes/No  Yes, ~~I think~~ Oedipus exhibits selflessness, because even upon finding out the truth about the prophecy, he commands Creon to banish him since that is what is best for the people of Thebes (Sophocles line 233).  Yes/No  Oedipus is not heroic, because he acts impulsively and caves into his fits of rage (Sophocles line 344).  Proof: killed Laius at a traffic jam  Proof: gauged his eyes out |
| Must aim at propriety (moral and social behavior) | Yes/No |
| Must be consistent | Yes/No |
| Exhibits a tragic flaw (i.e. often hubris) | Yes/No |
| Experiences a reversal or fall | Yes/No |
| Free choice (the opposite of fate) | Yes/No |
| Brings about his downfall | Yes/No |
| The punishment exceeds to the crime | Yes/No |
| Hero has increased awareness about his flaw/downfall (He/she has learned something.) | Yes/No |
| Produces catharsis in the audience | Yes/No |

tragic hero: tragic flaw: