*Oedipus the King* essay:  Server/Fall 2013

**DUE: FRIDAY, 10/4 BY THE END OF CLASS**

According to Aristotle, a tragic hero possesses a defect ortragic flawthat brings about or contributes to his or her downfall. This flaw may be a host of things (i.e. poor judgment,hubris, weakness, or an excess of an admirable quality). The tragic hero recognizes his or her own flaw but only after it is too late to change the course of events. After reading *Oedipus the King,* determine whether Oedipus is in fact a tragic hero or if he is a master of his own will and thus a villain (criminal) . In two-three pages (double-spaced), prove one stance or the other.

**Requirements:**

* 2-3 pages
* MLA (Times New Roman, 12 pt font, double-spaced, header, title, page numbers)
* introduction, body paragraphs, and conclusion
* parenthetical documentation (author’s last name and line number)

i.e. (Sophocles line 255).

* third person only (no “I”/ “me” or “you”/”your”)
* present tense (i.e. Oedipus explains. . . Sophocles reveals etc. )
* sufficiently proves thesis with textual evidence (proof from play)
* shared paper with me using GoogleDocs: [server.joye@mail.fcboe.org](mailto:server.joye@mail.fcboe.org)

**Introduction:**

* T.A.G.--title, author, and genre
* Introduce your paper. Recommendations: What is a tragic hero? What is a criminal? Discuss some aspect of Greek drama. Who is Oedipus?
* Thesis is your *last* sentence in the introduction.

**Body Paragraphs:** Explain how Oedipus was considered a hero (before his life fell apart) or a villain. What did he do? What did he become? How did other people view him? Prove your stance with *proof* from the play.

**Conclusion:** Restate high points and thesis. Offer fresh, new insight.

**Remember:**

\*Cheating/plagiarism = a zero and a phone call home. When in doubt, *cite!*