

FIRST ESSAY

Instructions: (These instructions apply to all essays in this course).

1. Your paper should be limited to about 5-6 double-spaced, typed (word-processed) pages. **NOTE:** This is simply a suggested length, not a jail cell. Using a **GIANT** font to make sure you have 5-6 pages is not in your interest; it is **what** you write, not the length that is the issue.
2. If you cannot type the essay, please leave space between the lines and limit your essay to about **1250 words** (see above note).
3. I want your thoughts on the topic, not those of secondary sources (such as Cliff or Monarch notes, or introductory comments found in the assigned readings). Your sources for the essay should be the texts, your own reflections, class discussions, and other conversations you may have had with students or anyone else outside of class. **DO NOT BE TEMPTED TO PLAGIARIZE YOUR ESSAY FROM SOURCES ON THE INTERNET OR ANYWHERE ELSE. A PLAGIARIZED ESSAY WILL, AT A MINIMUM, EARN YOU A FAILING GRADE ON THE ASSIGNMENT (See the D2L site for document on avoiding plagiarism in your essays).**
4. Your essay should contain a clear, convincing argument supported by appropriate evidence. This means your essay should work toward a decisive conclusion and that **you should take account of, and try to answer, the major points that might be made in opposition to your thesis.**
5. Your essay should **not** assume that "the reader will know what I am talking about." Explain and support your claims and positions carefully and completely.

Choose **one** of the following topics:

1. Socrates and Antigone find themselves in conflict with the demands of their respective cities. Compare and contrast their responses to this conflict and the ideas or principles for which they claim to stand.
2. Antigone knowingly and willfully disobeyed Creon's edict. Can she still claim to be a good citizen of Thebes? In responding to this question, take care to present the reader with your understanding of what citizenship entails.
3. Good, just leadership is something to be desired by all citizens. What are your criteria for good leadership? What were Creon's criteria of good leadership, both those he made explicit and those which were implicit in his actions? Does Creon meet your standards of good leadership? Why or why not?
4. Is Socrates a threat to Athens or is he, as he claims, its greatest benefactor and, therefore, Athens' best citizen? Can what Socrates stands for be fully reconciled with the demands of the political community?