

Omnibus II Commonplace Writing Assignment

Draft DUE November 19th by email

Final DUE January 7th

Using the structural outline of a commonplace, write an eight paragraph essay exploring a momentous act from the *Legends of Charlemagne*. The word range for the final paper is between 800 and 900 words (the excerpted quotes don't count in the word count).

Due November 19th in typed format:

NOTA BENE -- READ THESE DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY -- I WANT NO MORE AND NO LESS

_____ a **draft of your introduction** (decide which act you'll describe and compose a draft) Use your class note about techniques for composing dramatic descriptions. **SHOW** this scene that you've chosen to represent the type of conscious act you'll be writing about.

_____ your thesis (undisputed statement)

_____ a **substantive outline** for each of the 8 sections (what are you going to say?)

_____ **9 excerpted quotes** (include page number for each) pertaining to paragraphs 3 - 5. For each quote, explain the point you think that quote demonstrates. **Note:** an excerpted quote should not exceed 10 words in length.

_____ a **draft of your conclusion**. Have it somehow connect to your introduction.

I will read your drafts, write feedback and get them back to you by November 6th. You are welcome to arrange for an appointment for individual help during lunch.

The final paper, due January 7th, should be typed.

PLEASE NOTE: This schedule only works if papers are turned in on time. Unless prior arrangements have been made and approved, papers that are late will likely not be read.

The Commonplace

The purpose of a commonplace is to amplify the evil -- or the good -- that your chosen character represents. Choose a major deed you want to emphasize; then ask: what happens when men do such things? Questions to consider: What happens personally? what traits develop? What happens politically/socially?

Commonplace Outline

1. **Describe the act in dramatic fashion.** (narrate a brief retelling of the deed you want to explore) Do not use citations for this section.
2. **Make an undisputed statement:** (make a general statement about what happens ultimately if someone does such deeds as you are describing) ex. "He who would do more than becomes a man becomes less than one."
3. **Contrast a wrongful act with a noble one.** (describe that deed contrasted with another deed that shows either the better or the worse way to do things.)
Citations needed for this section.
4. **Compare one wrong with something worse (or one good with something better).** (find an even worse (or better) deed and explain how it is worse) Citations needed for this section.
5. **Show that the first act was done intentionally.** (find quotes that make that case since intentional evil or good are always more important) Citations needed for this section.
6. **Reproach the wrongdoer's past life (or praise the good person's life).** (hypothetical -- your best insight. What has transpired that led him to act this way?)
7. **Demand that no pity be shown (or exhort us to emulate that person).** (he should have known not to do and tell why. OR we should try to do the same... and tell us why)
8. A **conclusion** that reflects section #2