Paradox and Dramatic Irony in *Oedipus the King*

Assigned March 9, 2010                      Due March 23 & 25

*We will draw numbers to see who presents on Tuesday and Thursday; Please be prepared to present on Tuesday.*

Select a partner with whom you can work creatively and write collaboratively. Together, you will complete this assignment and present it to the class. As a team you will create one Playbill and one written assignment.

Create a playbill following the guidelines below that advertises an upcoming performance of *Oedipus the King* to a modern audience. Your playbill must include illustrations or depictions of 2 paradoxes or examples of dramatic irony that you identify in the play. Include important information that a play-goer needs to know like Title of Play, Date and time of Performance, Location, Director, and Persons in Leading Roles.

To accompany your playbill, compose a solid 3 page explanation of your playbill that identifies your choices, explains why they meet the criteria of a paradox or dramatic irony, and explains the significance of the specific examples you selected to your playbill and, more important, to the play.

This composition must also include a discussion of the rhetorical considerations listed in item 3 below as applied to your playbill and to your discussion of devices/scenes in relationship to the play.

**Your Playbill / Composition Must Meet All The Following Guidelines**

1. **Playbill Size**
The playbill must be at least the size of a normal playbill or flyer that you might find on a bulletin board but no larger than a sheet of standard poster board. In order to give you enough room to cover the required information, I recommend paper or poster that is *at least 11” x 17.”*

2. **Composition Format**
Your composition must be two full pages in length and follow formatting guidelines for the course.

3. **Rhetorical Considerations**
All of these must be considered and evidenced in your work. *Be sure to use these terms correctly in your written composition.*

   a. Audience: In this case, a modern audience; however, specifically define to whom your playbill is addressed or directed
   b. Ethos: Your Ethos is credibility; it must be strong. This will be primarily determined in your written composition; however, your playbill also illustrates your ethos.
   c. Pathos: Your Pathos is the use of emotional appeal to influence your audience.
   d. Logos: Your Logos is the use of reasoning to influence your audience.

4. **Other Considerations**
Your written composition must be logically ordered and carefully checked for correctness in all areas including spelling, punctuation, grammar, and MLA formatting. If you quote the text or use another resource in any manner, you must include a citation and a properly MLA-formatted Works Cited
The more organized your writing, the better your grade. Plan your work ~ then draft and revise, revise, revise. If you are unsure about the in-text citations or Works Cited, ask me or seek assistance from the University Writing Center.

5. Presentation
Your team will present their playbill to the class. I offer you as much creative license as you want within the boundaries of prudent and appropriate behavior. In other words, if you want to come in a toga and recite the scene in which your example of dramatic irony or paradox is found, then please do! If you are not theatrical or you are shy, then an academic or professional presentation of your playbill is appropriate. Presentations, however choreographed or delivered, must include correct and thorough explanations of all choices. **Know your work. Practice your presentation.**

6. Grade Value
This is a major assignment (Presentation 15% of your grade) so take it seriously and do your best work. It is also a grand opportunity to make a good grade on an assignment that could be a lot of fun. Those of you who struggled with your first paper should look on this as an opportunity to bring up your average.