

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
21L.012 Forms of Western Narrative

In-Class Exercise

1. The conventions of tragic drama in Ancient Athens assigned all the speaking parts in a play, aside from the Chorus and the Leader of the Chorus (Choragos), to just three male actors. If Sophocles' *Oedipus the King* is broken down into six different episodes (separated by stasima or choral odes performed by the chorus), consider how the speaking parts would have been distributed among the different actors, given that the same role would always be played by the same actor and that enough time has to be allocated for changes in costumes and masks between appearances. Note that, in episode #1, the role of the Priest would have been played by the Leader of the Chorus rather than one of the principal actors. [40 points]

	Actor 1	Actor 2	Actor 3
Episode 1	_____	Oedipus	
Episode 2	_____	Oedipus	_____
Episode 3	_____	Oedipus	_____
Episode 4	_____	Oedipus	_____
Episode 5	_____	Oedipus	_____
Episode 6	_____	Oedipus	_____

2. Notice the roles that have been assigned to Actors 1 and 3 in each column, and consider what those roles have in common with the other roles in the same column. Pay particular attention to the plot function that each role performs in each episode, and then explain what the common function is for each actor.

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3. What narrative effects are achieved by distributing the story-telling among several different performers instead of one single performer as in the case of epic singers? [30 points]