

## Scaffolded Essay Assignment — *Antigone* by Jean Anouilh

For this assignment, you will write an **argumentative essay** on Jean Anouilh's play *Antigone*. To do so, you will develop a **critical and personal analysis** of the work by establishing a **clear thesis** that you will defend through a **structured argument**.

### STEPS

#### 1. Establish Your Thesis

- a. Choose an aspect of the play that interests you (moral conflict, the role of fate, the modernity of the adaptation, etc.)
- b. Formulate a clear and precise position to defend
- c. Make sure your thesis is arguable (neither too obvious nor impossible to demonstrate)
- d. A document that may be useful: [How to Formulate a Thesis](#)

#### Examples of possible theses:

The stage directions and theatrical mise en abyme in Anouilh's *Antigone* are not simple scenic indications but constitute a genuine metatextual discourse that enriches the interpretation of the work.

Antigone's "No" in Anouilh's play evolves from a simple political refusal into a deeper existential affirmation, making the character no longer a classical heroine but the symbol of a quest for absolute authenticity.

In Anouilh's *Antigone*, the conflict between Creon and Antigone represents the fundamental opposition between political realism and moral idealism.

The character of Ismene provides an essential counterpoint to Antigone, illustrating another form of courage that is more nuanced and pragmatic.

The modern and sometimes anachronistic language used by Anouilh in *Antigone* is not a simple stylistic choice but serves to reveal the complex psychology of the characters, particularly visible in the confrontations between Antigone and Creon.

→ During the Thursday, April 30 class, we will hold a thesis workshop. I will need to confirm your thesis — preferably before the end of Thursday's class — before you begin writing your essay. The deadline to confirm your thesis is Monday, May 4.

#### 2. Develop an Outline

Structure your essay into three main parts:

##### a. Introduction:

- Context of the work (written during the German Occupation)
- Brief presentation of the play and its issues
- Clear statement of your thesis

All parts of this assignment = 15% of the final grade

**b. Development of the Analysis:** (3 parts recommended) For each part:

- A main idea that supports your thesis
- Arguments supported by specific examples drawn from the text
- A personal analysis demonstrating your critical thinking

**c. Conclusion:**

- Summary of the main arguments
- Reaffirmation of your thesis in a new light
- Opening toward broader reflection (if possible!)

→ The outline is for you. You will not turn it in and I do not need to see or confirm it.

**3. Writing the First Draft**

- Expected length: 800–1000 words
- Use formal, precise French
- Quote the text to support your arguments (with precise references)
- Pay attention to transitions between sections

**DATES**

- **Thesis confirmation:** Monday, May 4
- **First draft:** Thursday, May 7 (Classroom)
- **First draft returned:** Monday, May 11
- **Final version:** Monday, May 18, 3:00 PM (Classroom)

**GRADING**

- Thesis confirmation = 10%
- First draft (submitted on time and meets requirements = a complete version of the essay) = 10%
- Final version = 80%

→ [Evaluation criteria for the final version /80](#)

The [redacted] course has no final exam. The deadline for the revised (final) version of the essay is Monday, May 18, and you will submit it electronically on Classroom. Your presence on campus is not required after the last class (Tuesday, May 12), but we can meet in person or on Zoom if you wish to discuss your essay. I will be available from May 12 to May 18.

The revised version of the essay must be submitted on Classroom on Monday, May 18, before 3:00 PM. No late work will be accepted. The final version must be in Google Doc format and include the following:

- Your name
- The course name
- A title for your essay

**All parts of this assignment = 15% of the final grade**