

Oedipus Rex  
Group Activity  
Freytag's Pyramid

**Directions**

*Working in groups of three, place the events in Oedipus Rex into the Freytag pyramid. Be sure to cite line number. You may use your technology to assist you with answers, but if you are caught using your devices for other purposes, your device is subject to confiscation. Be sure to chart your progress on a Freytag Pyramid, and to use the questions to find the information in the play.*

Group Members – Please write your group's names here:

1  
2  
3

For each question, be sure to both identify, prove from the text and chart your findings on the pyramid.

1. Find at least three pieces of exposition that are critical to understanding the context of the play. Be sure to include page/line numbers when citing.

2. Identify five elements of complication in the play—these are places that where tension mounts as a direct

result of the protagonist's actions/attitudes towards others.

3. Identify the moment of greatest uncertainty—the moment when everyone is most involved or when the question of “what's going to happen to Oedipus?” is at its heaviest. Be sure to argue your claim with data from the text.

4. Identify the reversal—it's the point where it's clear the protagonist knows everything. Be sure to defend your identification of this moment with clear data from from the text.

5. Where does Oedipus first verbalize his tragic error? Be sure to cite evidence from the text.

6. Where is the *catharsis* (purgation) in Oedipus Rex? What is the final catastrophe and how does it demonstrate Oedipus' utter devastation? Do others experience the spiral-effect of Oedipus' downfall? Cite.

7. How does the story's knots unravel? In other words, how does the story unravel/unwind? Is there a moment of “last suspense”? If so, what is it? Cite your data.

When you are finished finding this information, be sure to use the paper I provide to chart this Freytag's pyramid. Make it look nice, neat and presentable.