**Short Writing Assignment**

**Reflection**

Initially, particularly in the conflict with the Cyclops, we see Odysseus as a man whose cleverness is undercut by his rashness, his impulsive tendency to gloat when he has achieved victory and to “rub it in the other guy’s face,” as he does with Polyphemus when he cannot make a clean getaway without ensuring that Polyphemus knows exactly who’s responsible for his blinding and defeat.

However, by book 17, we see a radically changed Odysseus, one whose identity, rather than being proclaimed aloud, is hidden under a humbling disguise of poverty, infirmity, and age. Consider the following questions:

1. What other changes in Odysseus’ behavior do we see in his interactions with the suitors, particularly Antinous?
2. What non-Odysseus-like reaction does Odysseus show, for example, when he is hit and insulted?
3. What would the “old Odysseus” have done if hit by a stool?
4. What were the probable causes of Odysseus’ change?
5. What does the beggar disguise symbolize?
6. Why is it important for Odysseus to show patience and self-restraint?
7. What is the meaning of the death of Argos, Odysseus’ old hunting dog?

NOTE: Several questions here adapted from <http://fajardo-acosta.com/worldlit/homer/index.htm>