**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Oedipus the King**

Opening Monologue

**Directions:** Re-read the opening monologue of Oedipus. Highlight applicable lines or phrases that illustrate the personality of Oedipus.

**Oedipus**

*Oh my children, the new blood of ancient Thebes, why are you here? Huddling at my altar, praying before me, your branches wound in wool. Our city reeks with the smoke of burning incense, rings with cries for the Healer, and wailing for the dead. I thought it wrong, my children, to hear the truth from others, messengers. Here I am myself-you all know me, the world knows my fame: I am Oedipus.*

**(Helping a Priest to his feet)**

*Speak up, old man. Your years, your dignity-you should speak for the others. Why here and kneeling, what preys upon you so? Some sudden fear? Some strong desire? You can trust me. I am ready to help, I’ll do anything. I would be blind to misery not to pity my people leaning at my feet.*

**Writing Prompt**

Oedipus’ opening monologue from Sophocles ***Oedipus the King*** reveals many aspects of Oedipus’ personality. The monologue also introduces the prevalent use of irony throughout the play. Write a short essay that explains the inferences drawn about Oedipus’ character and personality, thereby explaining one of his possible **flaws**. Additionally, point out and explain the establishment of **irony** in this monologue. Create a title for the writing that illustrates its main point.

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