

The Exemplification with Causal Analysis Body Paragraph Structure: Sonya Nunez's Essay "A Princess's Virtue of Life"

2-PART THESIS STATEMENT:

Throughout the epic, Nausicaa demonstrates that she is virtuous by showing that she is **generous**, **courageous** and **humble**. [...] Nausicaa helps Odysseus, proving the three characteristics that make her virtuous.

I. TOPIC SENTENCE:

In the situation presented, Nausicaa proves that she knows how to think for herself by not trying to ignore Odysseus when he asks for **HELP**.

- A. EXAMPLE FROM POEM: Nausicaa could've denied Odysseus any assistance possible for fearing the unknown consequences of helping that stranger. Instead, **she gives** Odysseus clothes and guides him to meet her mother, Queen Arete who then helps him too. Nausicaa made the choice independently without advice from her maids and without involving any one of a higher power. In this case, Nausicaa is of high power herself and therefore has some clothes to spare.
- B. ANALYSIS OF CAUSE (MOTIVE): According to **Crash Course's** video on "Aristotle & Virtue Theory," one quality representing virtue is knowing where the golden mean to an act is. Nausicaa gives Odysseus clothes because she has plenty to give and to still have enough for herself and her maids. Because she has so much, denying Odysseus what he asked for would've been considered extremely selfish. Her motivation for helping him can be seen in that she grew up in a very peaceful kingdom. We can see in *The Odyssey* that Nausicaa has great role models and exemplars such as her mother and most likely her father too. Queen Arete gladly helps Odysseus get home by risking her ships and her men to take him back to Ithaca and Alcinous had no problem providing Nausicaa with horses and maids to go wash her clothes at the river. Both of her parents are generous because they have enough supply for what is being asked for and therefore have plenty to provide to whoever else needs it. Homer makes it clear that the Phaeacians think of neutrality in war as a very important idea in order to live in peace.
- C. ANALYSIS OF EFFECT: Because the people around her take it as a priority to not get involved in what isn't their business and to not hold anything against those who haven't shown any threat to them in any way, Nausicaa learns the quality of being generous to a stranger such as Odysseus as long as she knows she can afford to help in the way that is needed when it's needed.

II. TOPIC SENTENCE:

With that same information of Nausicaa being of great assistance to Odysseus, it is easy to understand that Nausicaa is not just generous but also **courageous** which makes her virtuous.

- A. **EXAMPLE FROM POEM:** According to Crash Course, in order to be virtuous one must be courageous but courage is about knowing how to help when one can help rather than trying to help when the odds of being successful are very low. It usually takes experience and years to learn this quality but as we see with Odysseus, this isn't always the case. He was almost always more arrogant than courageous thanks to his good experiences with war and with the blood of his enemies. It isn't until he gets lost trying to head back to Ithaca after the Trojan War, that his experiences begin to take a drastic turn from what he has been used to his entire life, which is why he begins to change and to learn he has to stop being arrogant all the time. This would help make the assumption that becoming virtuous, is something that is learned from bad experiences, but Nausicaa hasn't had a negative history the way Odysseus has and yet he is still more naïve. As opposed to Odysseus, Nausicaa is still very young and hasn't had the need to experience anything like what Odysseus has been through to learn the quality of courage and she already knows how to distinguish a situation in which she might be in danger from a situation in which she might not. Nausicaa does not only try to help Odysseus because she is kind and has the resources to do so, but also because she knows she has no reason to fear Odysseus. Nausicaa is able to recognize that Odysseus is not a threat based on his appearance, and therefore knew that she would not be in danger if she tried to help him. Even though she hasn't gone through any bad experiences of her own and is way younger than Odysseus, Homer describes Nausicaa as more courageous than him.
- B. **ANALYSIS OF CAUSE (MOTIVATION):** Nausicaa might've learned from watching the experiences of others, just like the rest of the Phaeacians have. Because there have been so many things happen in the kingdoms around them, the Phaeacians are able to learn from the mistakes that others have made to avoid making those same mistakes themselves. Using this thinking process, Nausicaa becomes smarter and gains more courage than Odysseus ever did which is why she was not afraid to help and knew that she could.

III. TOPIC SENTENCE:

Another virtuous quality of Nausicaa is that of **humility** which she proves to have when she chooses not to ignore Odysseus as he pleads for clothes.

- A. **EXAMPLE FROM POEM:** As someone born into a higher class with so much power, it would be easy to assume that Nausicaa wouldn't want to be talking to someone like Odysseus, who for all she knew, might've just been a beggar. According to Homer, instead of turning her back on Odysseus, Nausicaa even questions her maids when they react a bit shocked seeing Odysseus naked begging for help. Not even Odysseus himself would've helped a man in this condition. Homer also explains how humble Nausicaa really is by giving the audience details about how close she is with her maids and servants. Homer says that Nausicaa was bathing with her maids and doing laundry with them rather than just sitting back and enjoying her day while her servants did the job.
- B. **ANALYSIS OF CAUSE (MOTIVATION):** This kind of behavior isn't usually expected from people who come from a high class because those people often tend to see their power as too important to be mixed in with anyone who isn't also of high power. Nausicaa however, does the complete opposite as she has no problem being close to her servants and doing the same tasks as them with them. The trait of being humble is a trait that can be taught from watching others who have the trait too. Odysseus lacked humility and liked bragging about who he was every time he had a victory because he considered himself to be perfect, and though he could've learned to be humble from Penelope, he needed to see the quality in someone who was more like him. Nausicaa, on the other hand, was kind and generous but never felt the need to brag about it because she knew there wasn't a need for it. Her mother, Queen Arete was most likely Nausicaa's role model because we know that Queen Arete was nice enough to take Odysseus into her palace without knowing who he really was.
- C. **ANALYSIS OF EFFECT:** Thanks to this, it is obvious that Queen Arete is also humble and generous, and that she has done a good job at raising Nausicaa to be humble too.

Works Cited

CrashCourse. "Aristotle & Virtue Theory: Crash Course Philosophy #38." *YouTube*, 5 Dec. 2016,

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