Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***Antigone*** – **Discussion Questions**

**Prepare by answering the following questions. Note page numbers, line numbers, and write down passages that support and validate your claims.**

***Prior Knowledge/Answering from experience:***

1. How is Antigone like Martin Luther King, Jr., or Mohandas Gandhi, or Rosa Parks or any other contemporary example of Civil Disobedience? Explain.

***Textual Questions:***

1. In lines 140-146, especially the line, “Zeus hates with a vengeance all bravado, the mighty boasts of men," we are reminded of the moral/lesson about **hubris** in *Oedipus the King*. Does this statement/memory have any impact on Antigone‘s actions? Explain.

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| --- |
| 1. *In Line 247-48, Creon says,* **“Death is the price—you‘re right. But all too often the mere hope of money has ruined many men.”** *Later when he is informed of the burial and some faction‘s disobedience of his orders, Creon concludes:*   **“Money! Nothing worse in our lives, so current, rampant, so corrupting. Money—you demolish cities, root men from their homes, you train and twist good minds and set them on to the most atrocious schemes. No limit, you make them adept at every kind of outrage, every godless crime—money!”**  *He continues that* **“…the whole crew bribed to commit this crime,**  **they‘ve made one thing sure at least: sooner or later they will pay**  **the price.”** |

Creon seems to be implying that whoever buried Polynices did so out of discontent with his rule and in a conspiracy to prosper financially. Given that we know Antigone’s motives are honorable, what does this reveal about Creon? About leaders in general? Explain.

1. How is this still true today? Are our modern leaders corrupted by power? Money? Explain.
2. Refer to the excerpt from *You Don’t Need a Title to Be a Leader*. Does Creon “…solve problems, contribute to the betterment of others, make the world a better place…”? Is Creon the kind of leader that you would like to lead our country? Explain.
3. Ismene eventually pleads with Creon to spare Antigone because she is to be married to his own son, Haemon. What comment(s) about leadership is Sophocles making when Creon orders Antigone's death in spite of this *persuasive* argument? Explain.
4. "Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Great men are almost always bad men." -Lord Acton

In what ways does this quote characterize Creon? What is Sophocles’ purpose in depicting Creon in this manner? Explain.

1. What are the consequences of Creon's stubborn, totalitarian rule?

To address this question fully, reflect on the events and characters’ thinking at the end

of the drama including:

* the symbolism of Antigone's entombment
* Creon's leadership role vs. his familial allegiance to Haemon (his son) and Eurydice (his wife)
* Creon’s feelings about his future as revealed in his last several lines (Lines 1392-1465).

1. **Hamartia**, or the **tragic flaw**, played an enormous role in the downfall of Oedipus. Identify and explain how **hamartia** contributed to the downfall of both Creon *AND* Antigone.

10. What stories that we have heard in our past contribute to our general feeling that Antigone is *right* and Creon is *wrong*? (We’re tapping into the foundations of the **collective unconscious**… oooooooh).

Carl Jung distinguished the collective unconscious from the [personal unconscious](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Personal_unconscious), in that the personal unconscious is a personal reservoir of experience unique to each individual, while the collective unconscious collects and organizes those personal experiences in a similar way with each member of a particular species.

Antigone

Creon