

ANTIGONE TRAGIC HERO ANALYSIS

ANTIGONE vs. CREON

Students build the strongest case for both characters before they decide.

POST-READING LESSON

POST-READING • ANTIGONE

WHO HAS THE STRONGER CASE?

Compare Antigone and Creon, then decide which character best fits the tragic-hero idea.



CASE A
ANTIGONE

TRACE THE STORY

choice → warning → turn → recognition → cost

Build both cases. Then decide.



CASE B
CREON

Your task: decide which character has the stronger case and support your answer with evidence.

MAKE YOUR DECISION

Who Best Fits the Tragic-Hero Idea?

Choose the answer you can support best with evidence.

YOUR ANSWER

Who is your tragic hero? Name the character and give the main reason for your answer.

BEST EVIDENCE

Which scene or moment gives your argument the most weight?

THE OTHER SIDE

What evidence would someone who disagrees with you use?

YOUR REPLY

Why does your answer still make sense after you consider that evidence?

ONE-SENTENCE ARGUMENT

Write the one-sentence version of your argument.

STUDENT • 1 OF 2

TEACHER GUIDE

Antigone: Tragic Hero Analysis

Post-reading comparison, discussion, and optional writing extension

WHAT THIS LESSON DOES

Students build the strongest case for Antigone and Creon, follow each character's arc, and then make an evidence-based claim.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 16-slide presentation
- 8-page student packet
- 8-page teacher key
- optional writing extension
- 2-page source notes

BEST USE

Use after students have finished the play, or when they are close enough to the ending to discuss reversal, recognition, and final consequences.

WHY THE QUESTION STAYS OPEN

The lesson does not steer students toward one required answer: Creon often fits the tragic hero structure more neatly, while Antigone can be subverted through her extreme rise, transgression, suffering, and moral significance. The point is the argument students build from the play.

GUIDE • 1 OF 4

16-slide presentation + 8-page student packet
plus teacher key, teacher guide, and source notes



TEACH THE IDEA WITHOUT REDUCING IT TO A “TRAGIC FLAW”

Students look at the whole pattern of choice, warning, reversal, recognition, and cost.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

“Tragic flaw” is only part of the story

A tragic hero is more than one bad personality trait.



HAMARTIA

Think of hamartia as an error, mistake, poor judgment, or weakness that helps set the disaster in motion.



Pay attention to the choices the character makes and what those choices lead to.

What does the character choose?

What goes wrong?

What changes?

What do they understand?

What does it cost?

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Use these ideas to compare them

Not every category has to fit perfectly.

Stakes

Does the conflict affect more than the character alone?

Complexity

What makes the character admirable and difficult at the same time?

Hamartia

What mistake or poor judgment pushes events toward disaster?

Responsibility

Which choices are really the character's?

Reversal

Where do things turn out differently than expected?

Recognition

What does the character finally realize?

Cost

What is lost, and how does that loss affect the audience?

One character may fit some parts better than others. That's okay.

FOLLOW THE STORY

Follow the story from choice to consequence

The pattern matters more than any single trait.

1

CHOICE

What sets the conflict in motion?

2

WARNING

Who asks the character to stop or change?

3

TURN

Where does the situation unravel?

4

RECOGNITION

What do they finally understand?

5

COST

What is lost by the end?

Track both characters through the same sequence before you decide.

MAKE YOUR DECISION

Who best fits the tragic-hero idea?

Choose the answer you can support best with evidence.

ANTIGONE

Her central role, conviction, complexity, chosen action, and suffering make the stronger case.

CREON

His error, choices, reversal, recognition, and loss create the clearest tragic arc.

BOTH / NEITHER

Possible - but explain why neither character fully fits the idea, or why both do.

There isn't one required answer. What matters is how well you support yours.

THE THROUGH-LINE

The deck starts with a first impression, gives students a useful tragic-hero lens, and then asks them to test both characters against the same evidence.

STAKES • COMPLEXITY • HAMARTIA • RESPONSIBILITY

REVERSAL • RECOGNITION • COST

STUDENTS HAVE TO MAKE BOTH CASES

The packet keeps the comparison balanced before students choose a side.

The image displays four student worksheets arranged horizontally. The first two worksheets, 'Build Antigone's Case' and 'Build Creon's Case', are for Case A and Case B respectively. They each have a title, a small portrait of the character, and several sections with prompts for students to write. The next two worksheets, 'Track the Story' and 'What Happens After the Turn?', are for following the story and analyzing the turning point. They also have titles and prompts, with the 'Track the Story' worksheet featuring a table for tracking the story steps.

CASE A - ANTIGONE
Build Antigone's Case
Start with what she chooses. Then look at what happens because of it.

START WITH THE CHOICE
What does Antigone decide to do, even knowing the risk?

WHAT IS ADMIRABLE ABOUT IT?
What makes her choice admirable or heroic?

WHERE DOES IT BECOME A PROBLEM?
Where does courage begin to look like stubbornness?

THE COST
What does Antigone lose by the end? What response does that create in the audience?

CASE B - CREON
Build Creon's Case
Start with what he decides. Then look at what happens because of it.

START WITH THE DECISION
What does Creon decide, and why does he believe it is right?

WHAT IS HE TRYING TO PROTECT?
What is he trying to protect or control?

WHERE DOES IT BECOME A PROBLEM?
When does leadership turn into pride or stubbornness?

THE RECKONING
What does Creon finally understand, and what has it cost him?

FOLLOW THE STORY
Track the Story
Use short notes. Choose the scene or moment that best shows each step.

STORY STEP

	ANTIGONE	CREON
THE CHOICE What decision sets the conflict in motion?		
THE WARNING Who tries to stop or change the character?		
THE TURN Where do things begin to fall apart?		

WHAT DO YOU NOTICE?
What pattern do you notice so far?

FOLLOW THE STORY
What Happens After the Turn?
This is where the two cases may start to look different.

STORY STEP

	ANTIGONE	CREON
RECOGNITION What does the character finally realize - if anything?		
THE COST What is lost by the end?		

STRONGEST EVIDENCE
Which row gives you the strongest evidence?

WHAT IS NOTED?
Why does that piece of evidence matter to the tragic-hero question?

ANTIGONE'S CHOICE. CREON'S DECREE.

Warnings. Turning points. Recognition. Cost.

The pages are built for actual classroom use:

- room to write without turning the packet into a workbook
- matching prompts across Antigone and Creon
- light backgrounds and strong outlines for photocopying

EVIDENCE FIRST. DECISION SECOND.

Students test the answer they want to give before they commit to it.

CHECK BOTH CASES

What Makes Each Case Harder to Defend?

Look at the evidence that works against each argument.

ANTIGONE'S STRONGEST EVIDENCE

Which moment gives Antigone her strongest case?

CREON'S STRONGEST EVIDENCE

Which moment gives Creon his strongest case?

EVIDENCE AGAINST YOUR CURRENT ANSWER

What evidence keeps the answer from being simple?

RIGHT NOW

At this point, who has the stronger case? Explain why.

STUDENT - 6 OF 8

MAKE YOUR DECISION

Who Best Fits the Tragic-Hero Idea?

Choose the answer you can support best with evidence.

YOUR ANSWER

Who is your tragic hero? Name the character and give the main reason for your answer.

BEST EVIDENCE

Which scene or moment gives your argument the most weight?

THE OTHER SIDE

What evidence would someone who disagrees with you use?

YOUR REPLY

Why does your answer still make sense after you consider that evidence?

ONE-SENTENCE ARGUMENT

Write the one-sentence version of your argument.

STUDENT - 7 OF 8

OPTIONAL WRITING

Plan the Literary Argument

Use your notes to plan a short literary argument.

PROMPT

Which character - Antigone or Creon - best fits the idea of a tragic hero? Use specific moments from the play, explain why they matter, and address one piece of evidence that could support a different answer.

BEFORE YOU WRITE

- clear claim
- specific evidence
- explanation
- response to another view

YOUR CLAIM

Write the sentence you plan to prove.

EVIDENCE TO USE

List the two strongest moments you plan to discuss.

THE OTHER SIDE

What evidence from another view will you address before you explain why your answer still makes sense?

STUDENT - 8 OF 8

THE LAST STEP ISN'T JUST "PICK ONE."

Students identify evidence that works against their current answer, consider the strongest point from another reading, and then write the claim they can defend.

ONE LAST CHECK

Before you decide, test your answer

Look at the best evidence for another reasonable reading.

THE OTHER SIDE

What evidence would someone who disagrees with you use?

YOUR REPLY

Why does your answer still make sense after you consider that evidence?

If that evidence changes your mind, change your answer.

OPTIONAL WRITING

Turn the comparison into a short literary argument

Use the evidence you have already gathered.

PROMPT

Which character - Antigone or Creon - best fits the idea of a tragic hero? Use specific moments from the play, explain why they matter, and address one piece of evidence that could support a different answer.

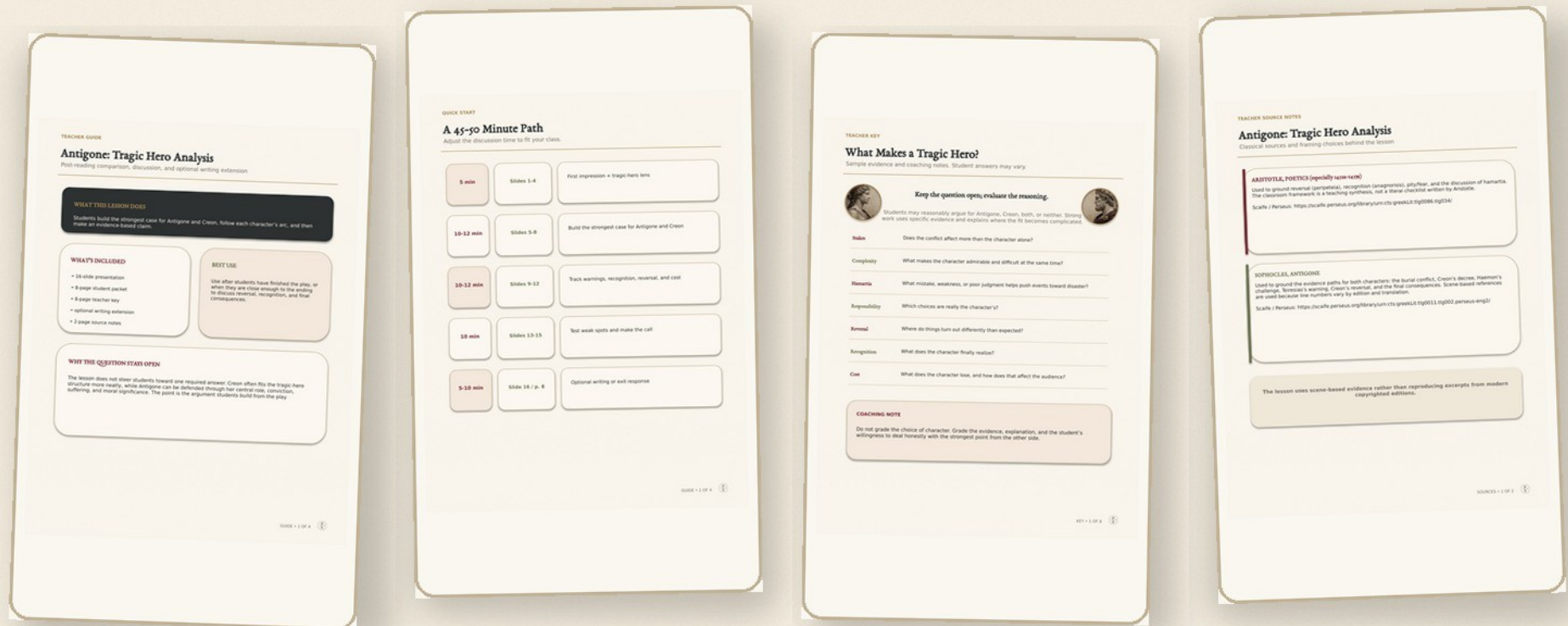
Your answer should match the evidence you found.

A STRONG RESPONSE

- clear claim
- specific evidence
- explanation
- response to another view

READY TO TEACH

Teacher support is included without burying the lesson in extra paperwork.



INCLUDED

- 16-slide presentation
- 8-page student packet
- 8-page teacher key
- 4-page teacher guide
- 2-page teacher source notes
- PowerPoint + PDF formats

BEST USE

Use after students finish Sophocles' *Antigone*, or near enough to the ending to discuss reversal, recognition, and final consequences.

Post-reading discussion • literary analysis • writing