

## **EVALUATION FORM: REACTION/RESPONSE PAPER**

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Paper title or subject: The Power of Fate

Dimensions of Evaluation - (0 = unacceptably flawed, 1 = major and minor flaws limit success, 2 = one major or numerous minor flaws, 3 = perfection spoiled by minor flaws, 4 = superb)

1. Presentation (titling and cosmetics) – 10% 4/4 = 10/10
2. Structure, sentence/paragraph level/continuity – 40% 3.25/4 = 40/40
3. Insight – 25% 4/4 = 25/25
4. Support (logic, documentary references) – 25% 4/4 = 25/25

Overall, in Sum (5 points possible) 92.5/100 = 4.6 points

Narrative Response: This paper follows the formula of your earlier paper and does so with a similar success. Here you define an abstract concept, *fate*, and the psychological appeal of fate via *the external locus of control* concept. Then you show how this plays out in *The Iliad*. And you did a great job with this mini-essay. I did, however, notice some clumsy phraseology. These clunky phrases created difficult sentences. At the bottom was the use of the passive voice and then your attempt to cope with the result. Here is one. The sentence is, “*The immense influential ability an external locus of control has on a person is displayed perfectly in the book The Illiad.*” Aside from the spelling error (*Iliad*, not *Illiad*). The passive-voiced verb “*is displayed*” creates the problem. It reverses the sentence logic and you have to flounder about to make the sentence work. All you are trying to say is “One book, *The Iliad*, shows the power an external locus of control has on a person.” Notice the greater clarity. The last sentence in the paragraph is even worse in that there are two passive-voiced verbs to distort sentence logic. Here it is with the verb voice changed: “If people (mortals) did not believe in fate, they would constantly question the morality of the gods.” I noticed a couple of other equivocal errors but nothing meriting a comment. Keep up the good work. This is top-notch stuff but do learn to dodge those attractive but dangerous passive-voiced verbs.

