**Guidelines**

1. Your group will write and perform a play according to the structure provided. You can create an original story or choose a familiar story from history or fiction to dramatize.
2. Everyone in the group will be an actor. You may have as many characters as you want, as long as you never have more of them onstage at one time than you have actors. No actor should play more than two characters.
3. The "audience" will serve as chorus. You must be sure that the lines for the chorus are presented clearly so that the "audience" will be able to "perform" them without rehearsal. You must provide a copy of all of the chorus' lines for them to read from.
4. Scripts need to be formatted properly. At the completion of the project you will hand in your script, and your grade will be based both on the script and the performance.
5. You will not be required to memorize your lines, but you must be familiar enough with them so you aren’t buried in your scripts.
6. You are not required to use props or scenery, but if you want to do so, you will need to make or find what is necessary.
7. To stay true to the Greek format, anything violent should take place offstage, with a character or "messenger" entering to tell the audience what just happened.
8. Your play needs to have a moral lesson.
9. Your play must take place in one setting, over one consecutive period of time (no flash forwards or flashbacks).
10. Your play must have a clear plot line (beginning/middle/end). You must have a problem that is somehow resolved.
11. If you need anything from me (props, system for music, etc.) you must let me know in advance. Day-of requests will not be guaranteed.
12. Your play must be about a tragic hero who has a downfall.
13. Though in a typical tragedy they never mixed comedy with drama, this is a modern-day Greek tragedy… so you may include humor if you wish.
14. Greeks wore only robes, so therefore there will be no costumes/costume changes (masks only, if using). Accessories may be OK (clear them with me first).**Play Structure**

**Prologue**

Characters speak, perhaps directly to the audience. Tell us *generally* what the play is going to be about, and what you think we will learn from it.

**Parados**

Chorus, in unison, tells us what has happened before the beginning of the action of the play. They should also tell us who they are. If you want, you can have the chorus speak in verse.

**Episode 1**

Characters, in masks, act out the beginning of the action of the play. If you want, you can have the chorus interrupt the action to ask questions or make comments. If you are going to do this, make sure you have copies of the whole play, rather than just the chorus parts, to hand out to the audience. Remember that characters in Greek Tragedy tend to talk a lot about decision making and moral choices (What should I do? Am I doing the right thing?).

**Choral Ode 1**

Chorus speaks about something connected with the theme of the story, but not necessarily about the story itself. Or, if you prefer, you may use a popular song or poem here, that you think expresses the mood or theme at this point in the play. If you use a poem, the audience will read it in unison. If you use a popular song, you may simply play it at this point. Please let me know what equipment you will need to do this (CD or cassette player/iPod dock). Music needs to be cued up and ready to go so as not to interrupt the flow of the play. NOTE: In a real Greek Tragedy the chorus would probably also dance at this point. You can't expect the audience to do this, since they won't have rehearsed, but you can have the members of your group perform the movements of the chorus while the audience reads or the song plays. This is NOT, however, required.

**Episode 2**

Characters act out the next part of the story, again with choral comment if needed.

**Choral Ode 2**

(See Choral Ode 1)

***(If necessary, you may add more Episodes and Odes here.)***

**Final Episode**

Characters act out the end of the story.

**Exodus**

As or after the characters leave, the chorus tells us what we have learned from the story.