Antigone
Activity #1: Anticipation Guide
Use Before Reading

Directions: With a partner, rate and discuss the following statements on a scale of 1–6. Keep these ratings in mind as you read Antigone and consider whether Sophocles—and various characters in his play—feel the same way you do.

1—2—3—4—5—6

agree strongly
disagree strongly

Rating

_____ 1. Nothing is worth dying for.
_____ 2. You should obey the rules; they were made for a reason.
_____ 3. Do the honorable thing.
_____ 4. Life is hard.
_____ 5. In the end, most people get what they deserve.
_____ 6. What's past is past; get on with the present.
_____ 7. Children end up paying for their parents' mistakes.
_____ 8. Those who forget the past are condemned to repeat it.
_____ 9. It's never too late to learn from your mistakes.
_____ 10. You should do what is best for the "greater good"—not just for you and your family.
_____ 11. A wife should support her husband's decisions, regardless of whether she agrees.
_____ 12. Women should obey the men in power.
Directions: A family tree showing the relationships between parents and children in *Oedipus the King* and *Antigone* has been started for you, below. Fill in the blanks as you read the play (= indicates marriage). You may want to use the extra space around the diagram to make notes about the characters and their actions.
Directions: Write a brief answer for each question. Use your answers for class discussion and to review for the quiz and final.

1. Where is the story set?

2. How did Antigone and Ismene’s brothers die?

3. What order has Creon given regarding Polynices’ body?

4. Why does Ismene tell her sister, “You are mad!”

5. What happened to Antigone’s and Ismene’s parents?

6. Why doesn’t Ismene help her sister?

7. Who are the members of the Chorus?

8. When the Chorus members first appear what background information do they provide?

9. Who was Capaneus and what happened to him?

10. According to the Chorus, by whom were the seven captains overthrown?

11. Put the Chorus’s advice into your own words: “Let us begin oblivion of the past”
12. How can you tell the senators are puzzled by Creon's summons?

13. Briefly explain the line of succession that resulted in Creon's ascension to power.

14. According to Creon, how is he acting in the state's best interest by denying Polynices burial?

15. Why has Creon summoned the senators?

16. Why is it that the sentinel "hastened—at my leisure"

17. What does the Senator mean when he says "This must be something more than natural"

18. What does Creon mean when he responses that "to say that guardian deities would care for this body, is intolerable"

19. Why is the Sentinel so happy to leave Creon?

20. "He it is loves to range..." Who is "he"?
21. Briefly summarize what the chorus is saying about man and nature.

22. How was Antigone captured—by whom?

23. What happened right before Antigone was detected alongside of the body?

24. What was Antigone doing with the "cruse"?

25. Creon accuses Antigone of exulting in her outrageous deed. Cite one of her lines that demonstrates her exulting.

26. According to Antigone, why doesn’t anyone express approval of her actions?

27. What does Antigone mean when she says “It was no bondman that perished, but a brother”?

28. Why does Ismene say that she helped Antigone?

29. Why doesn’t Creon order Ismene killed?

30. Why does Antigone accuse Creon of slighting his own son?
31. ______ what observations are made by the Chorus in 1.1 and 1.2?

32. Does Haemon support his father's decision to execute Antigone?

33. According to Haemon, do most people support his father's decision?

34. Why does Haemon mention trees on river banks ______ to his father?

35. Why does Haemon leave when Creon orders Antigone brought forth ______?

36. How does Creon intend for Antigone to die?

37. Why does Antigone say she must marry Acheron?

38. Why does Antigone mention Niobe's death?
39. Who was Perseus and why does the Chorus mention him as Antigone is led to her death?

40. Who is Tiresias?

41. What does Tiresias advise Creon to do?

42. What does Creon think of Tiresias' advice?

43. Tiresias predicts that Creon will pay for Antigone's death—how?

44. How does Creon change his plans after listening to Tiresias?

45. What is the gist of the Chorus' commentary? What is their tone?

46. Why does the messenger say that Creon has lost all?

47. How did Haemon die?

48. What was done with Polynices' body?

49. Whom does Creon blame for his son's death?

50. How does Eurydice die—and whom does Creon blame?
Antigone
Activity #3: Background Knowledge: Myth
Use Before and After Reading

Directions: In Column A are mythical figures you will find mentioned in *Antigone*. Using a reference such as Edith Hamilton's *Mythology*, briefly explain the story behind each one. As you read the play, think about how the mythological figure is like Antigone and jot down similarities.

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<th>Mythological Character</th>
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"This story just in. Eyewitness News has just learned..."

**Project:** Write the transcript for a TV news story about recent tragic events at the Royal Palace of Thebes.  *Take 2-3 minutes to PRESENT it in class.*

1. Watch the evening news for ideas about how lead stories are presented, what key phrases are used by reporters, and what information is included.
2. Pretend that you are a TV reporter who has just been sent to the scene of three recent deaths—Antigone's, Haemon's, Eurydice's. Compose the report you will present on the 6:00 o'clock news about the shocking story, just breaking.
3. Decide on the most sensational of the recent events—the one you will use to capture the audience's interest. Write your key introductory phrase.
5. Make up a list of three or four questions to ask witnesses at the scene.
6. Role-play your interviews with two or three eyewitnesses as well as another reporter on camera in the studio (other students who have read the play).
7. Consider how much background information your viewers will need to know about what has been going on at the Royal Palace. Jot down a list of events that preceded the killings—beginning with the death of Oedipus' father. Be sure to include the most lurid details—what Oedipus learned about his mother, his curse on his own sons, their fratricide, Creon's tyrannical edict, Antigone's defiance at the risk of death, Creon's treatment of the woman his son loves.
8. Summarize what has just happened—for viewers who tuned in late.
9. Insert some comments and questions from the news anchor in the studio.
10. End with questions that remain unanswered—with a promise to keep your viewers up-to-date. (For example, what will happen to Creon? What repercussions will these events have on those Greek citizens in the viewing area? Are the police pursuing anyone—or seeking additional witnesses?)
11. Write the transcript.  *Type it.*
12. Read the transcript out loud. Fill in any gaps in key information. Change the order of details in your account to make the news item more interesting and coherent. Omit information that is repeated needlessly, but add repetition if it will emphasize an important point.
13. With a couple of other students (eyewitnesses plus the reporter(s) behind the desk in the studio), perform the news report in front of a real videocamera and record on tape.  *Present your transcript in front of class.*
Name ____________________________

Antigone
Activity #16: Crossword Puzzle

DOWN
2. Daughter of Oedipus who defies Creon
5. Greek playwright who wrote Antigone
6. Creon's wife
7. Palace-setting of Antigone
9. Antigone has a ______ ending.
10. Antigone's brother, killed by Polynices
12. Group of dancers and singers who comment on the action in Greek plays
13. Brother to Jocasta, successor to the throne
17. Haemon died by his own ______
18. Creon ordered Antigone walled up in a ______

ACROSS
1. The chorus is composed of ______ of Thebes.
3. He brought news of Antigone's disobedience to Creon.
4. Creon ordered this rebel's body left unburied.
7. Seer who predicted Haemon's death
8. Son of Creon, betrothed to Antigone
11. Killing of brother by brother
14. Excessive pride and arrogance
15. Daughter of Oedipus, sister of Antigone
16. He killed his father and married his mother.
18. Eurydice ______ her husband before she died.