

Direction for comparison of Greek and French plays (*Medea*):

Though these two plays share the same basic stories, even to some degree the same narrative and dramatic structure, there are significant differences between them. Those differences are the subject of your essay of three-to-four pages. Do not be concerned with what, for this assignment, are superficial differences that come from the conventions of fifth century Athenian theater and mid-twentieth century French theater. You are to concentrate on what the attitude of each playwright is to the events and characters of the story and how those respective attitudes are revealed in the treatment of events and characters. What does the story signify to each playwright? How do you know? What is at the heart of each play?