

Inquiry 100  
Greeks at War  
Second Essay Assignment  
Due: Sept 28  
Length: approximately 4 pages

Your short essay on Weil/Bespaloff is rather like your first essay in form. I am asking you to select one aspect of Weil or Bespaloff or Weil and Bespaloff for critical evaluation. "Aspect" is an intentionally ambiguous term. It could designate an idea (for example, Weil's notion of force), a section of text (for example, Bespaloff's section on Helen), or an approach (for example, Bespaloff's focus on character in contrast to Weil's focus on a central concept). Your critical evaluation will involve presentation (a quick description of the aspect in question--well-selected short quotations will be especially important here) and evaluation (your stating and arguing for a particular appraisal of the aspect in question). This appraisal could relate to the interpretation's ability to make sense of the text, its suggestiveness, its relevance to contemporary political concerns, etc. So, you have lots of room. Just remember that we are looking at Weil and Bespaloff as interpreters of the Iliad, so Homer's epic shouldn't entirely disappear from view.