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| ***Phaedra* Free-writing and Journal Ideas**  **Hopefully, the suggestions below will get you started. You may write about anything having to do with *Phaedra.* They key is to write non-stop for 10 to 15 minutes.**  Imagine that you are Racine preparing for an opening night. Keep in mind that Racine wrote directly for the King of France. How does this make you feel as Racine? What are you nervous about? How do you make SURE the King will like your play?  Write about betrayal – a fictional betrayal or a betrayal from your own life. Beyond the experience of the event, think about “pride” and “honor” when writing.  Write about having to live in a parent’s or sibling’s shadow, just as Hippolytus had to live under his father’s shadow.  Is it wrong to contemplate immoral acts? Is it the thought or the action that makes a person guilty?  Imagine you are a god, handing out a curse. Which God are you, and why? Who do you curse, and why?  The following four questions go together  Can something be morally or ethically “right” in one era but “wrong” in another?  Can something be morally or ethically “right” in one culture but “wrong” in another culture, even if the cultures exist at the same time?  If we answer yes to either or both of the above, are we saying that no fundamental, universal “right” or “wrong” really exists? That whether an act is “right” and “wrong” is determined by the individual culture and era, rather than some outside omniscient authority?  Finally, if no “right” or wrong” exists outside of the time or culture in which the act occurs, what of Judeo-Christian cultures’ sense of God, who exists “outside of time”? |