

**1. What is the central argument or thesis of the essay, and where is this stated?**

Central argument is given in the first paragraph explicitly. It is that in the Pentateuch, God builds his rule over His human subjects by capitalizing on human disbelief and impiety to fortify his rule.

**2. What type of evidence do you use to support this thesis? Do you feel you have made a convincing case?**

Evidence consists mostly of three discrete stories, one about Abraham, one about the Israelites in Exodus, and the last about the song of Moses in Deuteronomy. This is convincing, especially as it moves chronologically through the Bible and increases in scope at each step.

**3. How have you organized your essay (topically, chronologically, etc.)? You may include a brief outline if you like.**

The organization is basically introduction with thesis → roadmap → body paragraph points → conclusion, but the structure of the evidence is very compelling, moving both chronologically and expanding in scope.

**4. What do you like best about the essay? What are its strengths?**

The strengths are the selection and organization of the essay (this is something that I repeat a lot here, because I think it's really good!), where several different cases of God's behavior is examined, first in the smallest case of an individual before moving onto the scale of civilizations.

The prose style is elegant without being overbearing.

**5. What are the essay's greatest weaknesses?**

The essay skews a little expository at some points; the analysis for example is very strong when it comes the nature of the song handed down to Moses in Deuteronomy, but is a little lacking in the section about Exodus, for example, where a lot of it is narrating the story of the Israelites under the Pharaoh.

## **6. What specific questions do you have for your readers?**

The essay focuses on the impiety of the Israelites, but God also seems to utilize the disbelief of other people as well - for example Pharaoh's sequence of hardening his heart, which seems an explicit manipulation by God - to establish his authority. Why the distinction between the Israelites and the rest of the groups in the Bible?