

Escape Cave:

Our plan to escape Polyphemus' cave is to set absolutely everything flammable on fire. Even without the wine Odysseus and his crew carried into the cave, there are a myriad of flammable objects in Polyphemus' cave. Therefore we assure high chances of survival. There were pens (which are most likely made of wood) for each age group of sheep, drying cheeses (mostly fat), lots of sheep, vessels, pails, and hammered buckets for milking, miscellaneous sticks. Upon hearing this, you may believe that we are in a very unfortunate position and our chances of survival are next to none. However, when Polyphemus comes home, he brings with him "a huge load of good dry logs to fuel his supper"(264-265).

Soon after doing so, Polyphemus will attack us and attempt to eat us. At this point in time, we have to say goodbye to Dhruvil who will be dearly missed but will not die in vain. Polyphemus will then go to sleep. As soon as he goes to sleep, the remaining crew members will light their fire and light the pens, any sticks they find, and the remaining huge loads of dry logs. This will create a massive amount of smoke and nasty, smelling gases from burning manure. This will be especially effective at fighting Polyphemus, since he is so tall, and smoke rises.

When there is so much smoke that to open your eyes in it would render you blind and sting your eyes and throat, the remaining crew members will yell at the top of their lungs, which will wake Polyphemus up. He will panic and try to get out of the cave, moving his boulder from the entrance. At this moment, the remaining crew members will seize their opportunity for escape and run to shore. Moreover, Polyphemus will not chase the remaining crew members since he needs to save his sheep and food.

DEBATE (Sued for Damages)

Opening Statement

I would like to take a moment to thank my worthy opponents, our honourable judge, and our great audience. My name is Dhrumil Patel, and my partners are Amanda Tian and Andrew Wu, and we are arguing for Odysseus in Polyphemus' suing of Odysseus for damages incurred in the escape incident. Let us define damages incurred during the escape incident as the damage to the Polyphemus' eye, and the loss of Polyphemus' sheep.

Then wouldn't we need to create new args?

Poking of eye → Self-Defence matching level of aggression that Polyphemus showed

Loss of Sheep → Compensation for killing 6 of Odysseus' men

1. Xenia

- a. As a being believing in the gods, Polyphemus needs to adhere to the rules of Xenia
- b. *(Could be used as refutation) In all cases present in the book, someone welcomes the people first. Now if they bring up the fact that Odysseus wasn't welcome, we can say that technically it's not that they weren't welcome, it's just that **no one was there to welcome them**. Therefore, they assumed that the inhabitant of the cave would welcome them, like any other person.*
 - i. If Polyphemus was furious that someone had entered his cave and ate his cheese, Polyphemus did not offer any opportunity for Odysseus and his crew to leave peacefully, instead he locked them in his cave, with the full intention of devouring them because Odysseus explained the concept of Xenia to him.

2. Self-defense

- a. Odysseus blinds Polyphemus in fear of being eaten. Polyphemus has no reason to eat them. ***This itself is undue.*** By blinding him, he is trying to ensure a higher chance of survival, which is fair, as Odysseus is trying to protect himself. Moreover, Odysseus sees blinding the cyclops as the only way to escape the cave and cannot risk losing any more men. More lives should not be lost just because a cyclops may go blind; vision is not an equivalent trade off for people's lives.
- b. We know that Polyphemus is trying to kill and eat them: "Lurching up, he lunged out with his hands toward my men and snatching up two at once, rapping them on the ground he knocked them dead like pups" (220).
- c. The only way for Odysseus to protect himself and his crew is to match the aggression that Polyphemus used against Odysseus and his crew, which justifies the blinding.

3.

Odysseus technically is not good cuz he just eats his cheese without permission. They might bring this up, so we'll need to think of something.

- He thinks polyphemus will give him hospitality?

They can also argue that there was no reason for them to steal the flocks at the end.

Odysseus lost members of his crew and took some sheep as compensation.