Dr. Shouse writes, “Under Plato and Socrates logos became defined more strictly – as logic.  This is important because whereas anyone could tell a story or sing a song, Plato and Socrates suggested that only the wise – the Philosophers!  The experts! – had the logos.  Why do you think they would do so?  What class of people do you think these ideas were especially appealing to?”

Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle believed only the philosophers had the “logos”, or words of great wisdom. It was convenient for them to apply this logic because it kept them employed with the rulers and lawmakers of the land. Aristotle was employed by Philip II to teach his son Alexander the Great. In addition to Alexander the Great, Aristotle also tutored future kings Ptolemy and Cassander. In *Politics,* Aristotle says that only one thing could justify monarchy, and that was if the virtue of the king and his family were greater than the virtue of the rest of the citizens put together. Who better to lead royalty to a virtuous path than a Sophist.

A Sophist like Socrates can feel morally and legally bound to the state. In the play *Crito,* Socrates explains the state is like his father or his master, and a son/slave has no right to strike out against his ruler.  He must do what his city and his country order him to do, or he must change their view of what is just.  But he must not be overtly disobedient. Similar to Tom Hagen of the Corleone family, Robert Duvall’s character, in the *Godfather* and *Godfather II,* Aristotle acted as a sort of consigliere or advisor to Alexander the Great.

The enthymeme presented to Frank Pentageli by Tom Hagen in the *Godfather II* would have made Aristotle proud. Frank Pentageli, testifying against the Corleone family, reverses his testimony to the Senate committee simply because his brother was flown in from Italy.

Major or general premise: Mafia families against the Corleone family end up dead.

Minor or specific premise: Michael Corleone is sitting next to my brother.

Conclusion: If I testify against the Corleone family, my brother will die.

Socrates said, "If you don't get what you want, you suffer; if you get what you don't want, you suffer; even when you get exactly what you want, you still suffer because you can't hold on to it forever. Your mind is your predicament. It wants to be free of change. Free of pain, free of the obligations of life and death. But change is law and no amount of pretending will alter that reality." Frank Pentageli didn’t get help he wanted from Michael Corleone. Frank got attacked and almost killed. Even when Pentageli got his revenge by swearing out a statement against the Corleone family, he had to reverse his testimony to save his family. Tom Hagen later visits Frank Pentageli, who’s being guarded at an army base, and has the following dialogue.

[*Frank Pentangeli*](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0311155/): Those were the great old days,you know... And we was like the Roman Empire... The Corleone family was like the Roman Empire...   
  
[*Tom Hagen*](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000380/): When a plot against the Emperor failed... the plotters were always given a chance... to let their families keep their fortunes. Right?   
[*Frank Pentangeli*](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0311155/): Yeah, but only the rich guys, Tom. The little guys got knocked off and all their estates went to the Emperors. Unless they went home and killed themselves, then nothing happened. And the families... the families were taken care of.   
[*Tom Hagen*](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000380/): That was a good break. A nice deal.   
[*Frank Pentangeli*](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0311155/): Yeah... They went home... and sat in a hot bath... opened up their veins... and bled to death... and sometimes they had a little party before they did it.

Frank Pentageli was later found by his security detail, dead in a bathtub with a slit wrist.

Using the narrative paradigm, Tom Hagen, the storyteller, is sent by the Corleone family to the military base to settle unfinished business with Pentangeli. Upon listening to Tom’s story about the Roman Empire, Pentageli has to come to terms with his Sicilian history and the Mafia code of honor, or Omerta. Knowing what happens to those who turn against the Corleone family, he understands his family is in danger. The comparison to the Roman Empire makes sense to Frank and he knows his family will be safe.

The Narrative-Paradigm  
1.    Tom Hagen tells a story.  
2.    Frank Pentangeli knows Tom isn’t visiting him just to say hi.  
3.    The Pentageli family’s code, history, and Sicilian culture speak volumes   
4.    Frank has seen first-hand the wrath of Michael Corleone.   
5.    The story Frank chooses is honorable death by suicide.