

Optional Mythology Research Assignment

If you are dissatisfied with either your group score or your individual score on the Myth Wiki, you may choose to complete this assignment to replace either or both of the scores. (This is what I was hoping to avoid, but many people waited until the last minute, hoping their groups would complete all the work...and no one did.) This will not require you to do any more research than you have already done for the wiki assignment. It is simply a matter of taking the resources you already have and presenting what you know as a formal research essay rather than a multi-genre wiki. You will be able to use any research writing that currently appears on your wiki page, but other than that you are on your own. **THIS IS AN INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT**, so those of you who were dissatisfied with your group's effort can show me a sample of your *own* writing, and only you will accept the responsibility for it. If you choose to complete this assignment, your score for the Myth Wiki will be replaced by the score you earn on this essay, so make sure this truly is a sample of your best work.

Instructions:

Write a standard, academic essay that answers this question:

What does the myth you studied have in common with other myths?

You will not find the answer to this question in a book or on the Internet. YOU develop your own answer based on the research you have done and the many myths you have studied over the past six weeks, and then YOU prove that your answer is a good one by offering lots of examples, details, and explanations. **DO NOT JUST SUMMARIZE OR RETELL YOUR MYTH!** Compare it to others. Find common themes and illustrate them with your clear writing and convincing evidence. You are not only showing that you understand your myth, but also that you see how it fits into the great tapestry of all Greek mythology. **This is NOT simply a report.** It is a thesis-based argument that proves a conclusion you came to after doing your research.

Resources:

Read some very good papers written by previous ninth graders to get an idea for what you have to do: <http://ffjh.davis.k12.ut.us/thompson/examplepapers.htm>

In case you lost your copy (that I told you to keep forever!), here is the standard, academic essay format: <http://ffjh.davis.k12.ut.us/thompson/colors.a.pdf>

Notice that they all have properly formatted Works Cited pages. You'll need one, so use Citation Machine: <http://citationmachine.net/index2.php?reqstyleid=1&newstyle=1>
(Remember we started one of these in the computer lab, so you might have some of it finished already.)

Notice that they all include Parenthetical Documentation. Here is a link that explains it: <http://ffjh.davis.k12.ut.us/packet/parenth.htm>

Look carefully at the scoring rubric to make sure your final paper meets all the requirements. Staple the rubric to your final paper and turn in by the due date: _____.

Mythology Research Paper

Scoring Guide

Writer's Name _____

Organization: Standard Academic Essay Format

- Introduction
 - Attention Getter & Effective Transition to Background Information
 - Background Information: Brief Explanation of Assigned Myth
 - Areas of Focus: Main Supporting Points (at least 3) Briefly Mentioned
 - Clearly Stated Thesis: One clear sentence that answers the question “*What does this topic/character/story have in common with other myths?*”

_____/50

- Body
 - Clear Topic Sentence at the Beginning of Each Body Paragraph
 - Specifics/Details that Support Topic Sentences and **prove thesis**
 - (*not a summary, report, or a retelling*, but a clear and complete explanation of how your myth compares to another one)
 - Effective Transitions/Clinchers

_____/150

- Conclusion: Restate thesis and main points; powerful clincher
 - Restate Thesis (in different words)
 - Restate Main Points (in different words)
 - Powerful Clincher

_____/50

Length of Paper: 600 words or more; no needless repetition

_____/50

Parenthetical Citations (within text: author’s last name and page number)

(MLA style, including proper spacing, spelling, and punctuation)

_____/100

Works Cited Page: alphabetized and properly formatted entries

(five+ sources, MLA style, proper spelling, capitalization, punctuation)

_____/100

Quality/Correctness of Writing: Final draft quality; clearly a best effort

_____/100

(Grammar Punk: No fragments, run-ons, comma splices, or misused commas)

Grand Total

_____/600