

## Research Paper Suggestions for Self-Evaluation

- Remove the essential question and the outlined areas of focus from the top.
- Title it correctly and appropriately: *Topic: Epithet (Odysseus: Wandering Hero)*
- Attention Getter: You have to have one, and it has to relate to your topic. Also, your attention getter has to transition effectively into the summary of your myth.
- Summarize your myth clearly but concisely. The first paragraph should not be the longest one!
- Do not write a *report* of your myth! You have to write a thesis-based paper in which you prove or illustrate an idea that *you* generated. You will tell parts of your story to *support your thesis*, not just to fill space.
- State your thesis clearly at the end of the first paragraph; do not worry about stating all your areas of focus as part of your thesis. Just make the thesis as short and simple as possible.
  - The first words in your thesis statement should be the name of your assigned character. (It has to be the subject of the sentence.)
  - Do not make your thesis statement dependent on other sentences that come before it. It should be perfectly understandable on its own.
  - Thesis statements are not questions. They are clearly stated answers!
- All body paragraphs must have clear topic sentences.
  - Topic sentences should be simple and clear: No “...because...and...so....”
  - Topic sentences must make reference to the thesis statement so readers can see how this information will support your thesis: *One way Hercules is similar to other heroes in Greek mythology is \_\_\_\_\_ ...Another way Hercules resembles other mythical heroes is \_\_\_\_\_.... A final thing all the Greek heroes seem to have in common is \_\_\_\_\_.*
  - Topic sentences can't be questions. They are clearly stated answers!
  - Don't expect readers to see and understand similarities between characters just because you have told the characters' stories. Explain the similarities! Show why the connections are significant!
- Conclusion Paragraph: Don't forget!
- Works Cited Page: Format correctly! (Use Citation Machine!)
  - Works Cited is a separate page.
  - Works Cited should include ALL your sources, including the ones you used to learn about the characters you compared your topic to.
  - It should not be copied from your PowerPoint. No bullets.
  - All lines of a works cited entry after the first one are indented.
  - Put one space between works cited entries.
  - Alphabetize entries.
- Do not capitalize the words *god* and *goddess* when they refer to characters in Greek mythology.
- Include correct parenthetical documentation. (See instructions.)