

## **Research Paper Review: Check these items before you complete your final draft.**

When it comes to the content and organization of the essay, everything you need to do is on **The Checklist** you got last week. I wanted you to read it and evaluate your paper for each of the items on it. Some of you did that. Many of you did not. In fact, some of you flat-out lied and checked off stuff that you clearly didn't do in your draft. The checklist contains all the important requirements. Read it carefully, and don't lie if you haven't met those requirements. Putting a check in the box means nothing if you haven't done it in your paper, and if I see that you haven't followed the suggestions I gave you, I'm going to be merciless. **USE THE CHECKLIST!**

**Thesis Statements:** Some drafts didn't have a clear thesis statement in your introductory paragraph. The thesis statement is the answer to your essential question, and it is what your whole argument will prove. You gotta have one! This is not optional. If it's still not clear, here's a fill-in-the-blank version you can use at the end of your first paragraph: *The myth of \_\_\_\_\_ illustrates \_\_\_\_\_ common themes in Greek mythology.*

**Themes/Motifs = Topic Sentences:** Body paragraphs should begin with theme statements (from the handout or that you found on your own). If you start any paragraph with "\_\_\_\_\_ was a character in Greek mythology who.....," you are ignoring this requirement and just retelling the story. You should summarize elements of the story to illustrate a theme, and you can't do that if you don't STATE THE THEME! Start every body paragraph with one.

**Spell the names correctly;** otherwise, *Zues* and *Posidion* will punish you.

**Parenthetical Documentation:** Check all these things carefully.

- Missing or not enough in-text citations. Every time you summarize a section of the myth, you need to have some: at least six or seven of them.
- All in-text citations must refer to entries on the Works Cited page.
- Books need an author's last name and page number, like this (Hamilton 34).
  - No first names, no commas, no extra spaces, no abbreviations
- Most web sites just need an author's name, like this (Skidmore).
  - No URLs, no website titles (Myth Man), no search engines, no page #'s
- *Encyclopedia Mythica* needs the article title in quotation marks, like this ("Zeus").
  - DO NOT put the words *Encyclopedia Mythica* in your citation!
- If you have two sources that give the same information, pick one.
- Punctuation goes after the citation, like this (Thompson 45).
- Put a single space between the sentence and the citation, like this (Anderson 3).
- For books, a single space between the author's last name and the page (Smith 7).
- Do not include any of these in your citation: *pg.*, *p.*, *page*, *#*, or commas.
- Don't make this more complicated than it has to be (Thompson 1).

**Works Cited Page:** Check all these things carefully.

- Entries must be alphabetized by first letter.
- If the entry will fit on one line, put it on one line.
- If the entry is longer than one line, indent all lines after the first one. (This is the opposite of the way you indent paragraphs.)
- Use the same font and type size for all the entries.
- Space evenly between entries.