

MYTHOLOGY PROJECT 2017: INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the mythology project is two-fold: (1) to provide an in-depth analysis of a myth, teaching it to the class using a PowerPoint presentation, and (2) to represent the myth in a fun, creative display to help the class remember the myth.

The project will require you to complete the following steps:

1. You will sign up for a myth of your choosing from a list I provide. You will then prepare an analysis of the myth which you will type up in a PowerPoint presentation. You will also prepare a creative project designed to make the myth memorable for your classmates.
2. You will submit the PowerPoint analysis 24 hours prior to your presentation time.
3. On the day of your presentation, you will teach all of the information in your PowerPoint. You will then take questions from the class.
4. Immediately after your formal presentation, you will show your creative project to the class, explaining clearly how it represents the myth.

PART I: ANALYSIS

- A. Your analysis will include some background research as well as your own reading of the myth. It will include the following:
1. **Creative title:** You will create an original title to reflect the content of your analysis, not just the name of the myth. You will reference this title at the beginning and end of your presentation.
 2. **Source analysis:** Edith Hamilton stresses the importance of listing her sources as she retells the myths. You need to reinforce this information as you present. For this section of the presentation, you need to:
 - a. Emphasize the ancient sources from which Hamilton draws the myth (stated in italics at the beginning of each chapter).
 - b. Choose one of the sources to describe in more detail. Do some light research on the writer or work, and report on it briefly, noting the time period, brief history or description, and style (especially if commented on by Hamilton). You will need to cite where you retrieved this information.
 3. **Myth analysis:** This is the most important part of the presentation and will require two different segments:
 - a. You will need to **explain what this myth reveals to us about the ancient Greeks** (or Romans). Use your notes that we covered in class and discuss as many of the recurring topics that seem to apply to your myth, using specifics from the myth to show how that topic is addressed.
 - b. **Determine a theme** that seems to be suggested by the myth. Remember your rules for stating a literary theme, and be able to explain how the myth conveys that theme.
 4. **Brief art review:** Provide one example of how the myth has been portrayed in art.
 - a. This can be from any period of history, but it should be a work that is recognized as a significant work of art by art experts (in other words, no comics or pop-culture art)
 - b. Explain who produced the art, the time period in which it was produced, and how it portrays the myth. Especially point out any discrepancies (if there are any) between Hamilton's version of the myth and the version portrayed in the art work.
- B. Your analysis will be graded in two formats: a PowerPoint presentation, and a formal, oral presentation to the class. You will receive more instruction on each of these later.

PART II: CREATIVE PRESENTATION

The creative part of your presentation is your opportunity to make the myth fun and to show off some of your creative talent. Some of the creative projects students have completed in the past include original songs, paintings, sculpture, videos, "movie trailers," stop-motion animations, and skits. The basic goal here is to make the myth memorable for the class. The creative project will be graded on the following criteria:

- a. it must accurately and adequately represent the myth, including the beginning, middle, and end of the story
- b. it must involve original creativity on your part (i.e. you may not simply print off images of paintings and paste them on a poster board or show a clip from a movie that you had no part in creating)
- c. the class must be able to see and follow your presentation easily (e.g. if you present a small model, you may want to accompany close-up pictures on a PowerPoint so everyone can see, or if you perform a song, you may want to post the lyrics on a PowerPoint or pass out small lyric sheets for the class)
- d. it must show a reasonable level of quality and effort on your part

In addition, there are some limitations on what you can do:

- a. Your project cannot involve food of any kind.
- b. Humor is good, but excessive goofiness is not. Remember your goal is to represent the myth, and use your humor to support that goal, not distract from it.
- c. Simple drawings on a poster board will not receive a high grade. (Simple drawings on a sheet of notebook paper or printer paper will not be accepted.)

As always, you can run ideas by me if you are unsure about them. We'll also look at some sample work from past students to help inspire you. Think creative, think fun, and you should be on the right track!