

## Mythmakers of the Classical World

### **Activity/Paper 5: Modernize a myth**

**15% of final grade**

**PART 1:** Creative writing

**Online submission due date:** 5/7 @ 11:59 PM

**Length:** 1000-2000 words

**Assignment description:** Modernize any ancient myth from Greco-Roman mythology (but not one that you have already written about for any other paper). Add elements that are modern (smartphones, social media, politics, etc.) and/or subtract elements that are too rooted in ancient customs, manners, or technology. You can base it in any part of the world (USA, Mexico, China, etc.) but it needs to be set in the past 10 years or modern day (yes, pre-2020 is OK). I strongly recommend selecting a small section or portion of a myth rather than an entire hero or story (i.e. just one of Heracles' labors instead of all 12). Students need to either write in the style of one of the authors we have studied this semester (though writing in Apollodorus' style is not permitted as it is too simplistic) or bring in elements of ancient Greek and Roman storytelling that we have discussed this semester (i.e. *in medias res*, metaphors and similes, stichomythia, etc.). Extra points will be awarded to those students who do both.

#### **Specific assignment criteria:**

1. Students will need to reference at least 3 different mythological events or use at least 3 different ancient texts on the same event (they can be from the same author). You will NOT have in-text citations (unless it is a direct quote) or a works cited for this document. That is for the "Reflection" section.
2. Students need to either write in the style of one of the authors we have studied this semester (Apollodorus' style is not permitted as it is too simplistic) or bring in elements of ancient Greek and Roman storytelling that we have discussed this semester (i.e. *in medias res*, metaphors and similes, stichomythia, etc.). Extra points will be awarded to those students who do both.
3. Students will be graded on their ability to understand and interpret the myths they include in their retelling and find creative ways of modernizing them; the myths that they reference and use in their modern version should be accurate and insightful.
4. Extra credit may be awarded to students who are within 200 words of the maximum limit (writing 1800-2000 words for this assignment).
5. You can see the rubric for the Creative Writing portion here: [Rubric for creative portion.docx](#)

**PART 2:** Reflection

**Online submission due date:** 5/7 @ 11:59 PM

**Minimum number of sources needed:** 3 ancient sources

**Length:** 500-1500 words

**Assignment description:** The point of this part of the assignment is to allow you to discuss your decision-making process when you wrote the creative portion of the activity/paper. Note that this part is still considered a formal paper (though you will not have an introduction and conclusion) and so your tone should be professional, organized, and respectful. Please do not submit a rambling stream of consciousness. You should take into account the following issues, in separate numbered paragraphs. Do not repeat the questions below, but number each paragraph and write on the following:

1. Which myth did you select to modernize and by which author specifically? You need to include the original author, title of text, and book/line #s. For example: "My paper retells the story where Achilles ransoms Hector's body, from Homer's Iliad 24, lines 350-700." Add to this paragraph by discussion why you selected this myth. Is there a personal connection or some other aspect that made it stand out to you?
2. You were required to either write in the style of one of the authors we have studied this semester (Apollodorus' style is not permitted as it is too simplistic) or bring in elements of ancient Greek and Roman storytelling that we have discussed this semester (i.e. *in medias res*, metaphors and similes, stichomythia, etc.).
  - If you wrote in an ancient author's style, who did you choose and why? What did you do to imitate their style? What did you struggle with while mimicking their style?
  - If you brought in elements of ancient storytelling, which ones did you incorporate and how? What did you find difficult about this?
  - If you did both of these (for extra credit), answer all of the questions above.
3. What else influenced your writing (i.e. class lectures, class writing exercises, a trip to the writing center, a discussion with a friend, a meeting with Dr. Trusty, etc.)?
4. Compare and contrast your modern version to the "original" that you based your story on. Yes, this could be a long paragraph.
5. What did and didn't "work" when you tried to update the myth to modern times? What did you have to change and why? What parts of the ancient myth still work well in a modern setting? What does this reveal about differences in culture, values, social structure, technology, etc. This potentially requires you to write quite a long answer.
6. If you referenced any other mythical events in your paper besides the main story mentioned in #1 or used any other versions, mention them here. Remember that you need 3 total sources minimum. Continue this paragraph by discussing why you used/incorporated these specific myths. What was useful about them? Provide citations with line numbers or sections as in-text

citations. See "[Readings and sources that may help with papers \(with FAQ at bottom\)](#)" on ICON for help.

7. Bibliography. Cite all sources that influenced your writing (ancient and modern) including the original author for the myths that you referenced in #1 and #6. This means you must have at least THREE ancient texts listed here (it is OK if they are the same author). See [Citing papers properly and avoiding plagiarism](#) on ICON for help.

**Additional notes:**

1. Students who double the source/example # requirements (for this assignment, citing 4 or more ancient texts/sources) will receive a 3 point bonus to their "reflection" portion of their paper (for a max of 50 points).
2. You can see the rubric for the Reflection portion here: [Rubric for reflection portion.docx](#)