

Odyssey Mini-Research Project

You may complete this project as an individual or as a pair. If you work alone, you may choose either identity to complete the project. If you work as a team, each of you must choose a different identity and complete both assignments.

Choose either Genealogist or Mythologist: Before we begin reading the *Odyssey*

Extra Grade: After we begin reading the *Odyssey*

As the Genealogist, you will discover how each of the characters in Homer's *Odyssey* is connected. To do this you must climb into the branches of the family tree as well as occasionally digging deep within its roots. Because there are a great many characters mentioned within the *Odyssey*, use only those listed below.

- Show the family relationships:
 - Who is the mother or father to whom?
 - Who is married? Who are their children?
 - How are the monsters related to gods and humans? This may not be an actual familial relationship but more of an interaction with a particular god or goddess.
- Design a diagram of the family tree with an image for each character in Publisher, Word or Inspiration. Or you may choose a more creative exploration through drawing, collage, or design as long as it is neat, legible and thoughtful.
- Also, you will choose one branch of the family tree to write a two page summary and analysis of how the familial relationships affect the identity of its individual family members.
For instance, consider the relationship between Aphrodite, Hephaestus Eros.
(Mars, Venus, Vulcan and Cupid in the Roman)

As the Mythologist, you will uncover the myths behind Homer's *Odyssey*. Each character Odysseus encounters, whether god or beast, has a story of his, her or its own to tell.

- Select three main characters (listed below), and explore the myths associated with these characters.
- Research each of the characters and the myths that place them in Odysseus' path. Are they god or human? Where were they born? How did they come to be where they are when Odysseus first meets them? For what are they most known?
- For each character, write a one-page summation of your research. Summarize, paraphrase and include direct quotes from your research – remember, a summary means that you rephrase the research in your own words. No pasting from the internet.
- Create an illustration (drawing, collage, or computer design but no clip art) to accompany each myth that shows the mythical background of each character.

As the Sociologist, you will research and explore the impression of myth and oral tradition on Greek culture. Consider how myth holds the principles and ideals of the culture and then you will search for those connections in other forms of art and ideas or issues (both historical and social):

- Select **one** of the following aspects of Greek culture: sculpture and art, architecture, social structures and family life, or historical events.
- First conduct an initial investigation of research to look at broad sources (encyclopedias, books) to help you form connections between the **themes and ideas** of the *Odyssey* and the cultural aspect you choose to explore.
- Find **three images** (art, maps, etc.) that guide you to develop a focused topic and thesis that addresses how artifacts show the cultural values represented in the *Odyssey*. These images and ideas will lead you to more specialized and specific research.
- Write a two-page summary and analysis of your research and the connections you establish between myth and culture.
- Include three images with captions that describe how the images relate to your topic

Requirements for all three projects:

- MLA-formatted: double spaced, 12 pt. Times New Roman
- Use **three academic sources** – practice critical judgment to select credible sources.
- **Parenthetical citations** and **works cited** page.

See rubric on back for additional criteria.

Cast of Characters:

GODS	HUMANS	MONSTERS
Zeus	Achilles*	Polyphemus
Poseidon	Menelaus	Circe
Athena	Helen	Scylla
Hermes	Telemachus	Sirens
Hephaestus	Odysseus	Calypso
Hades	Teiresias	Charybdis
Aphrodite	Penelope	
Hyperion	Paris	

* = Demigod

Rubric for *Odyssey* Mini-Research Project

Research: / 20

Deep and careful consideration of sources available
Use **three academic sources** with critical judgment to select credible sources.
Uses paraphrasing, summarizing and direct-quoting.
Correctly formatted MLA parenthetical citations and works cited page

Summary and Analysis: / 20

Thoughtful and thorough synthesis of research with themes and ideas from the *Odyssey*.
Correct length and requirements for project selected
Uses paraphrasing, summarizing and direct-quoting with parenthetical citations.

Creativity: / 20

Thoughtful and inventive, the final product reflects a thorough and curious approach to the process of research

MLA Formatting: / 20

Correctly formatted MLA parenthetical citations and works cited page

Writing and Mechanics: / 10

Final product shows an effort to revise and proofread. Correct formatting for sources, title, and citations (when applicable)

Production Value: / 10

Final product is well-developed and neat; it shows careful planning and construction, and it meets the requirements for each project.

Total / 100

The final project is due by _____.