

English 10H  
Mr. Holzer

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The following is a list of due dates and an explanation of the *mythology* research paper that your child will be working on during the third quarter. We will be going over this project together in class. We will be spending five days in the library and many class periods working on the research process. However, your child is expected to be working independently on this project as well to meet all due dates.

Please sign the bottom of this letter after you have read the explanation. Have the bottom of the sheet returned to me by December 19<sup>th</sup> so that I know you are aware of this project and all the due dates.

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in your child's academic work.

## Due Dates

Parent/Guardian Signature	Monday, December 19
Approval of Topic	Wednesday, December 21
Six Work Cited Cards	Friday, January 6
Thirty Note Cards	Friday, January 13
Outline	Friday, January 20
Rough Draft	Tuesday, January 31
Final Draft	Monday, February 6

Please note, if work is not handed in on time, credit on that part of the project *will be lost* (this includes the final draft). Students may not submit any part late for a higher grade. If problems arise, students should come see me to clear them up as soon as possible. Also, the final product *must* be handed in on the day it is due. If your child is not present on the day the project is due, please have them email it to me at [kholzer@acsdny.org](mailto:kholzer@acsdny.org) else they will receive a zero.

If students are absent, it is their responsibility to get to the library when they return.

**AHS Library Hours:           7:20am – 3:10pm Monday, Tuesday, Friday  
  7:20am-8:30pm Wednesday and Thursday**

*Students are encouraged to also use public libraries*

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I have read the 10<sup>th</sup> grade Research Paper: *Mythology* explanation. I am aware of the project requirements and the due dates.

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

## Library Research Project: Mythology

**Step 1: Parent/Guardian Signature - DUE: Friday, December 19.**

**Step 2: Approval of Topic - DUE: Wednesday, December 21.**

Using the list provided choose one of the topics you would be interested in researching. On Wednesday, December 21, in class you will have your topic formally approved by me before you proceed with in-depth research.

**Step 3: Six Work Cited Cards – Due: Friday, January 6 (10 points).**

A. We will spend five days in the library.

Dates are:

1/3/12, 1/14/12, 1/5/12, 1/6/12, 1/9/12

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On these days you will report directly to the library. During this time you should collect information for your work cited cards. You should also use these days to gather information about your topic on your index cards.

B. You should have ***at least six sources.***

- Six (6) book sources, including reference books

C. When you have your list of sources, transfer them onto a 3x5” or 4x6” lined index card. Make sure to follow the proper MLA cited format covered in class. **Do not forget to number each source and include the call number of the book and the page numbers.**

**Step 4: Thirty (30) Note cards – DUE: Friday, January 13**

A. Read your sources carefully and take notes about your subject on a 3x5” or 4x6” lined index card.

B. You need to have at least thirty (30) cards! This essay needs to be 5-6 pages typed, times new roman, and double spaced, so get as much information as you can. You are welcome to create more than thirty cards, but you need to have at least 30 to earn full credit for this section.

C. Be sure that each note card has a source number in the upper right corner, a subject heading in the upper left and a page number in the left margin.

**Step 5: Outline – DUE: Friday, January 20 (10 points)**

- A. From your note cards you will write an outline (outline format to follow)

**Step 6: Rough Draft – DUE: Tuesday, January 31 (10 points)**

- A. Rough drafts must be typed and double spaced.
- B. You will be peer critiquing on this day to help you with editing and general feedback about your draft. If you come in with nothing but a confused look, you will miss out on this helpful stage in the writing process **AND** lose 10 points for this section of the assignment. Be prepared!

**Step 7: Research Paper Final Draft – DUE: Monday, February 2 (60 points)**

- A. This is the final product of all your blood, sweat and tears. It will be 4-5 pages typed, in Times New Roman, double spaced, one inch margins and with a header that has your last name and a page number on it (right hand corner). A cover page will also be expected.
- B. The final draft must follow the MLA format, including the work cited page.
- C. You must cite all information that you found in the library books, magazines, and newspapers sources by including the names and page numbers of the work used. We will cover this process in class, don't worry. **IF YOU DO NOT GIVE PROPER CREDIT TO YOUR SOURCES, YOU WILL AUTOMATICALLY RECEIVE A GRADE OF 50%.** Consider yourself warned.
- D. Use the information from your note cards and outline to write your final draft.
- E. One copy of your final draft with the rubric stapled to the front must be handed in on **Monday, February 2**. Please note: **you will also send me an electric copy as well.**
- F. If you are absent the day the project is due, you are to email your project to me at [kholzer@acsdny.org](mailto:kholzer@acsdny.org) else you will receive a zero. Also, as everyone is to send me an electronic copy, I may print it off for you if need be.
- G. Handwritten work will receive no credit for the final draft. We have computer labs at the school so the excuse of not having a computer is not a valid one.

**Directions:** Choose one of the four following choices for your mythology research paper. Your paper must be four to five pages in length and adhere to formal English conventions. Include parenthetical citations and a works cited page. You must have your topic approved formally by me before you can proceed with in-depth research.

1. Choose a natural phenomenon and research two different cultures' explanations of that phenomenon.

*Examples:* Stars, bodies of water, storms, fire, lightening/thunder, rising/setting of the sun, floods, animal characteristics

2. Choose a universal motif and research its presence in two different cultures' mythological traditions.

*Examples:* The Hero's Journey, the Labyrinth, father/son relationships, good vs. evil

3. Choose a universal myth and research its presence in two different cultures' mythological traditions.

*Examples:* Creation myths, afterlife myths, reincarnation myths, battle between gods/goddesses

4. You may create your own topic. It must involve a comparison between at least two mythological traditions. You must make an appointment and meet with me to discuss your topic *before* topics are due in class.

***Every paper must include:***

- A brief history of each culture and its mythological tradition
- A summary and analysis of your topic as seen in myth(s) from each culture
- Compare and contrast your topic as seen in each culture's mythological tradition

***Please do not hesitate to see me with any concerns. As always, be creative, use your time wisely, and be insightful!***

## Mythology Research Report

### Quick Reference Guide for Cultures and Myths

Remember, you're researching several things for this project! In your packet you have the technical terms for what you're researching, but here is the layman's explanation if you forget:

1. **You are researching (briefly) two different cultures.** Remember, this is a *brief* look at the cultures, but you'll need a few key things to write about. They are as follows (but you can expand on or condense them if you want). This is BRIEF, and you can sum up what you need to about cultures in under a page.
  - A. When was the culture active? Dates and eras are important.
  - B. Where was the culture located? Country or area will work.
  - C. What form of rule did they have? (tribal, kingdom, democracy?)
  - D. Did they do anything important? (create something maybe?)
  - E. Where they polytheistic or monotheistic?
  - F. Did they build anything important?
  - G. What was the weather and land/sea conditions in their area like?
  - H. Philosophies (did they contribute to math, for example).
  - I. Did the government/state change and or involve?
  
2. **You are researching two actual *myths*.** It is very important that you find one myth from each culture that you have decided to write on. These will be stories that you'll read, and then briefly recount for me.
  - A. Find one myth from your first culture that deals with your topic choice, and jot it down.
  - B. Find one myth from your second culture that deal with your topic choice, and jot it down.
  - C. Give *specific* details for the myth such as:
    - a. Who is involved?
    - b. What is being explained?
    - c. When does the myth take place?
    - d. Where does the myth take place?
    - e. Important things that reveal cultural values.
  - D. These myths will probably be told in several paragraphs
  
3. **You are *comparing and contrasting* what you find in the two myths.** This is truly what your paper is about! You need to show me that mythology has a commonality to it, despite cultures being separated by time and distance!
  - A. How are the myth similar (comparing them will probably take up a large chunk of your paper)?
    - a. Do they have similar themes?
    - b. Do they have similar motifs?
    - c. Do they have common ideas or symbols?
  - B. How do the myths differ?
    - a. What *major* differences are displayed?
    - b. Do the explanations or ideas truly not have anything in common?

Now go forth and research!

## **Culture List**

Aboriginal (that's the indigenous people of Australia)

African (choose a country/region/tribe)

Celtic

Chinese

Egyptian

Greek

Hindu

Japanese

Mesopotamian (Assyria, Sumeria and Babylonia are included in this group)

Native American

- Inuit

- Eastern North America

- The Great Plains

- West Coast

- Southwest

- Maya

- Aztec

- Inca

Norse

Persian

Polynesian (this includes Hawaii, and the various Pacific Islands)

Maori (the native people of New Zealand)

Slavic