Just as Odysseus in The Odyssey served as a model of what the ancient Greeks valued, so too we can see what we in the United States find important. Our heroes change not only their lives but also others’ lives via their examples. When we examine who our heroes are and the traits they exhibit, we more fully understand those exemplars, ourselves, and our society’s values.

Odysseus’s heroic traits were revealed during his heroic journey, and they exemplify what the Greeks found to be important. We, too, will frame our research and analysis of our American heroes based upon Joseph Campbell’s description of the hero’s journey and the summary of steps that transform a person from ordinary to heroic and in turn impact a society and its values.

Choose a famous person from American society, past or present, who is heroic based upon our class’s agreed-to definition. Research his/her life and find three to four vetted sources from the school’s databases that will help you determine the following information, focusing on the steps of the hero journey:

THE CLAIM/INTRODUCTION
- Identification of the hero, qualities, and achievements.
- American values exemplified.
- Journey undertaken.
- Claim of heroic status.

THE BEGINNING
- The ordinary world-status quo-or the person’s origins and background, such as biographical facts such as date and place of birth, family, education, etc.

THE DEPARTURE
- The call to adventure—what caused the person to begin to evolve into a hero—with the motivation for the journey’s start. This may include an initial resistance or refusal of the call.
- The assistance of mentors or helpers who guided, inspired and advised the hero.
- The crossing the threshold and departure that began the hero’s adventure as he or she moved into a new world or experience.
THE INITIATION
- The road of trials with the description of challenges and obstacles faced and how they were overcome.
- The final battle or crisis and the lowest point where the hero has suffered and faced incredible difficulties that seem insurmountable.

THE ULTIMATE BOON-REWARD
- The treasure was bestowed and rewards were received. The hero experienced the highest achievement(s). The hero was recognized for these accomplishments. The result and outcome of the journey and evidence of heroism were apparent.

THE RETURN HOME
- The transformed life and changes that occur as result of achievement(s) are described.
- The resolution with a mourning of the end of the hero’s life or up-to-date information with the hero’s current activities.
- The return with the elixir or realization of how the hero exhibits traits that we value in our American heroes.

FREEDOM TO LIVE (ANALYSIS)
- Explanation of why an American hero and traits shown.
- American values exhibited and exemplified.

STATUS QUO (CONCLUSION)
- An acknowledgement of the status quo, summing up heroic traits and connection to American values.
- Link back to claim.

After you complete your research looking for details connecting to these stages, you will take notes where you will analyze how the biographical details link to the various stages of the journey.

Then, you will introduce the stages, present the facts you have discovered in your research, cite them, interpret them, and analyze them, explaining how they prove your person has experienced the hero’s journey. You will consistently link back to your claim.

THE SOURCES: You will synthesize the facts from THREE to FOUR vetted sources from the library’s subscription databases (not found via a Google search or by using Wikipedia) into a research paper based upon an argument or a stand you take where you make a claim (a thesis statement) as to why your
person is a hero, how your person has completed the hero’s journey, AND what this experience tells us about characteristics, traits, and ideals that we in the United States value.

**THE LENGTH:** Your research paper will be **three to four double-spaced** typed pages in Times New Roman 12 point font. You will follow the outline to have a minimum of eight well-developed paragraphs.

**GRADING:** The **paper** is worth 150 points: 50 points for mechanics, 50 points for content, and 50 points for proper citations and works cited page following the MLA format.

In addition, the **completion of the research steps** such as annotating the sources is worth 60 points, note taking for sources is worth 60 points and outlining, including a typed outline, is worth 25 points. There will be two status checks submitted to turnitin.com as you write the paper, worth 20 points each.

Finally, you will create a **presentation** using PREZI worth 50 points and complete an **oral report** to the class worth 50 points.

**THE SCHEDULE** is as follows:

**Jan. 28**  
Discussion of project; definition of a hero; review of hero’s journey  
**HW:** choose three possible names—there will be no repeats

**Jan. 29**  
Introduction of outline template and noodletools.com account research in library-print out source one w/MLA citation info.  
**HW:** annotate first source; due tomorrow

**Jan. 30-31**  
Find & print second and third sources with citation info. for each; start annotating source two  
**HW:** finish annotation of source two; due tomorrow

**Feb. 1**  
Annotate source three and begin plugging information into outline  
**HW:** annotate source three and complete outline; due Monday

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**Feb. 4**  
Explanation of notetaking; begin note taking on packet—all three columns filled out on It says/I say/citation notes sheet  
**HW:** enter information on notes sheet for source one due Feb. 6
Feb. 5  work on notes for sources two and three  
**HW:** enter information on notes sheet for source two due Feb. 6

Feb. 6  work on notes for source three  
**HW:** enter information on notes sheet for source three (& fourth if using) due Feb. 7

Feb. 7 & 8  Set up turnitin.com account  
Finalize outline and plug in remaining information  
Explanation of writing of paper and works cited page  
Writing paper in library, including citations  
**HW: typing of paper, including citations and works cited page**

Feb. 11-14  finish paper and works cited page  
**HW:** continue working on paper to finalize and print out—  
**INCLUDE WORKS CITED AND TYPED FINAL OUTLINE, AS WELL AS PAPER**  
**ALL parts due Feb. 19—PRINTED OUT— at beginning of class**  
PAPERS LOSE 10 PERCENT EACH DAY LATE

Feb. 15 & 18  OFF—Presidents’ Weekend

Feb. 19  **ALL PARTS OF PAPER DUE TODAY AT CLASS START**  
papers submitted to turnitin.com AND discussion of presentation and PREZI—ensure PREZI accounts activated

Feb. 20  Explanation of PREZI requirements and PREZI work begins  
**HW: work on PREZI**

Feb. 21 & 22  PREZI work—PREZI due Feb. 25  
**HW: work on PREZI**

Feb. 25  PREZIs begin