

Myth, Mythology, and Mythography

Workshop: Myth and Archetype

Individual activity, completed outside of class.

Instructions:

Choose an archetype and conduct research into its use and meaning. List as many examples of this archetype as you can think of, based on your own experience (stories, movies, games, etc.).

In addition, list the sources you consult in MLA citation style, to be submitted next week. You really need only two or three; check the Course Resources links and the material linked on the schedule to begin with. Remember that the Library has numerous resources on myth as well.

Finally, create a mask that “illustrates” your choice, using any materials you deem appropriate. Other than being big enough and sturdy enough for you to wear on your face next week, and good reasons for the way it looks, there are no restrictions or further guidelines. A good website on masks is available at <http://42explore.com/mask.htm> and another with basic ideas and instructions for mask making can be found at <http://www.allspecies.org/edu/maskmaking.htm>.

Please be able to provide reasons for your choice and design, however, and be able to discuss the various examples you listed prior to creating your mask.

This exercise is designed to accomplish several objectives. Participating students will:

1. Conduct college-level research on a topic important to the study of myth.
2. Identify particular archetypes used in contemporary media and popular culture.
3. Describe the qualities associated with a particular archetype.
4. Creatively interpret these qualities in a medium appropriate to myth: the mask.

This activity is connected to our scheduled discussion (week 5) on drama and mythography, and to the group theatrical performance. It should also help you to locate a focus for your final project, to be articulated in a formal proposal (with bibliography) by week 5.