**The Odyssey of Life Essay Project**

**Due: Wednesday, January 30th**

**(Essay via Google Docs; Poster in Class)**

An **allegory** is a work with two levels of meaning – a literal one and a symbolic one. Now that we have read Homer’s epic poem the *Odyssey*, I want you to consider the allegorical parallels between the story of Odysseus and your own life. Odysseus undertakes a sometimes exciting, sometimes perilous journey over a long period of time to reach his goal. In this essay project, you will think about where you want to be in ten years. What will you accomplish between now and then? What “monsters” will challenge you and tempt you, trying to keep you from the ultimate goal?

**Part One**

Write a five paragraph essay that draws parallels between Odysseus’s journey and the one you will embark upon. Your essay must explore the following questions:

* In what ways is the *Odyssey* like a journey through life?
* How are some of the challenges and obstacles Odysseus faces and the choices he must make similar to those you have encountered, or expect to encounter, in the future? How are they different? You must use **specific examples** from your life and the *Odyssey*.

Please follow the outline (NOTE: A paragraph has **no less** than five sentences)

Paragraph 1: INTRODUCTION

* Explain the basic idea that the *Odyssey* is like a journey through life.
* Remember to always introduce the title and author.
* This paragraph must include a one-sentence claim. (NOTE: If you mimic this thesis statement in your own paper, it is fine, but you will lose one point)
  + *Example: Just like Odysseus, I will encounter temptation and make difficult decisions on my journey to becoming a police officer*.

Paragraphs 2, 3, and 4: BODY

* Each of these body paragraphs should discuss a parallel between the epic poem and your life.
* Each paragraph should include specific examples from **both** the *Odyssey* and your life.
* You may use quotes from the *Odyssey*, but make sure you indicate the book number followed by the line number it was taken from. (Ex: Book 13, lines number 15-19 = (13.15-19))

Paragraph 5: CONCLUSION

* Summarize what you have written in your paper without copying and pasting anything.
* Also, indicate what you have learned about your upcoming journey by comparing it to the *Odyssey.*

**Part Two**

Create an illustrated and detailed map depicting your odyssey. This can be done on a standard-sized piece of poster board or you may create some other 3-dimensional map of some kind.

Your “map” should include the following:

* The obstacles you have written about in your essay. You may include others that were not written about. You may use monsters to symbolize your obstacles or other graphics, objects, etc.
* A legend that specifies symbols, mileage, etc.
* This map should not have any negative or blank space and be very detailed and creative. Feel free to draw, use computer graphics, or magazine cut-outs. It should be neat and professionally presentable.