

## What Is Myth?

English 3090: Dr. Sladky

**What is a myth?** In a discussion post, find a definition of “myth” that speaks to you, make up your own definition, or ask AI to define myth. Post your definition with a few sentences about why this definition speaks to you. Include an MLA citation for your definition. **Post Wed. Aug. 27.**

**Find a myth and tell the story to the class.** In many cultures, oral storytelling is a large part of how myths get transmitted across time periods and audiences. With this project, we will engage in a bit of oral storytelling ourselves. Building on your definition of what myth is, find a myth that means something to you. The myth can be from any culture. You will *tell* the myth to the class on **Sept. 15 and Sept. 22.**

The **GOAL** of telling the myth is to share the story with us and give us, your audience, an understanding about something related to cultural values. (Think about fables, with their moral or message at the end of the story.)

**A key element of this oral storytelling exercise is the story.** There is no right way to tell a story, but certain features are common: concrete, vivid details that allow the listener to visualize what you are saying; specific details about time, place, people; clarity around what your message is; an understanding of your audience as the other students in this class.

**You have 5 minutes to tell your myth.** You will not use any accompaniments such as PowerPoint. Time yourself when you rehearse. You may use notecards (or an equivalent) with brief notes (which you will turn in if you use them). Rehearse the story often enough that you can relate to the audience as much as possible with gestures and eye contact and are not stuck reading from your notes too much.

**Give special attention to planning how you will tell this story and to practicing your delivery.** Consider also what you know about rhetoric and the effective delivery of a speech or presentation.

**Compose a reflection.** Reflection is a big part of the writing process because it helps us process what works and what doesn't, and why we make the rhetorical moves that we make. Use the prompts below to compose a 1-page reflection.

## Planning

Turn in this outline when you present on Sept. 15.

<p>Myth and Culture: What is the myth? What culture does it come from?</p>	
<p>Why are you interested in sharing this myth? What is your relationship to this story? What is your relationship to the culture?</p>	
<p>What is the message that the myth is trying to share?</p>	

## Critical Reflection: What Is Myth?

English 3090: Sladky

After you complete the storytelling exercise with the class, compose a reflection about your experience and your myth. Address the following questions. Your reflection should be about 1 page.

- What was your experience with this oral storytelling exercise? Is this the first time you've participated in oral storytelling? What have some of your other experiences been?
- How would you evaluate your presentation of the myth or story? What worked well? What was your favorite part of the exercise? What was challenging? What would you do differently if you were to do this again?
- What kinds of things changed because you were the one telling the story? How does your version differ from the version that you read/heard before? How did you make this story your own?
- What elements of exposition do you think that you utilized in this exercise?
- Include a MLA works cited page for sources and screen shots of AI prompts you used.

## Rubric

Consult this document to know what you need to submit and the kinds of things that I am looking for in your assignments. The rubric includes elements of turning in the different pieces of your writing process, as well as assessment of the finished product of your presentation.

"What is myth?" discussion/post	10 pts.
Planning handout: turn in the planning handout when you present on 9/15. Turn in notes that you use when presenting.	10 pts.
Elements of storytelling: There is no right way to tell a story, but certain features are common: concrete, vivid details that allow the listener to visualize what you are saying; specific details about time, place, people; clarity around what your message is; an understanding of your audience as the other students in this class.	25 pts.
Presentation time: you have 5 minutes to present your myth. (Try to stick as close to 5 mins as you can - going over or under may impact your grade.)	10 pts.
Effective delivery of your myth: consider what you know about rhetoric and effective delivery of a presentation. Familiarize yourself with your presentation beforehand, minimize reading straight from a piece of paper.	10 pts.
Critical Reflection	25 pts.
MLA formatting and citations of sources used/consulted. Screenshots of AI prompts.	10 pts.

## How Do Others Write About Myths? (And, How can we use what we learn in our own writing about myth?)

English 3090: Dr. Sladky

### Presentation: Monday, Oct. 13

We read to figure out what writers do in their writing and how we might do those same things in our own writing. In this assignment, you will work in pairs (or groups of three) to analyze an expository essay about myth. To do the analysis, you will use all of the concepts we have available from Rhetoric: ethos, pathos, logos, kairos, exigence, and other elements of the rhetorical situation (author, audience, purpose/message). To analyze, you should make observations not just about how the author does these things, but also *why* are the things the author does effective? You should provide *examples* of each of these concepts as evidence to show how the author uses rhetoric concepts effectively.

1. **Choose a text:** Choose one essay from Natalie Haynes' *Pandora's Jar* (except for "Medusa" and "Helen").
2. **Divide the work:** Assign which sections you and your partner(s) are responsible for: concepts we have available from Rhetoric including ethos, pathos, logos, kairos, exigence, and other elements of the rhetorical situation (author, audience, purpose/message).
3. **Complete the rhetorical analysis handout:** This is a starting point or outline. It prioritizes your observations about the piece without having to worry about formal writing style. It is a crucial part of this project (and all projects in this class) to show your work and make thinking visible. You will also need to provide screenshots of AI prompts if you use them at this stage. **Work together with your partners, but each person will turn in their own handout with the final project.**
4. Create a group PowerPoint. Use Google Docs or One Drive to collaborate. You will need a **statement** that gives your overall assessment of the work and hints at your reasons for that assessment. You will need to identify the text's main claim and the main reasons for that claim. Then, **analyze** the essay's rhetorical situation (author, audience, purpose/message), and uses of pathos, ethos, logos, evidence. How does the author do what she does? Finally, address what you think is most interesting, exciting, or useful in this piece.
5. **Individual Reflection and Critical Analysis of Presentation. (3-4 pgs.)**
6. Include a MLA works cited page and screenshots of an AI prompts that you use.

## Rubric

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Handout: Rhetorical Analysis of a Myth from <i>Pandora's Jar</i> . Fill out the handout and turn it in.	10 pts.
Presentation: The presentation is organized and presents a clear statement that identifies your assessment of the work.	10 pts.
Presentation: Identify the main claim of the work.	10 pts.
Presentation: Analyze the rhetorical situation (author, audience, purpose/message), and uses of pathos, ethos, logos, evidence. How does the author do what she does? Use specific evidence from the chapter and cite specific instances using quotes.	20 pts.
Delivery: Consider what you know about rhetoric and effective delivery of a presentation. Familiarize yourself with your presentation beforehand, minimize reading straight from a piece of paper.	15 pts.
Individual Reflection and Critical Analysis of Presentation (3-4 pgs.)	25 pts.
MLA formatting and citations of sources used/consulted; Screenshots of AI prompts.	10 pts.

## **Retell a Myth: An Expository Project**

English 3090: Dr. Sladky

**Due: Mon. Nov. 17, 11:59 PM**

In the Western tradition, men tell myths from their perspectives or are the first to write them down. There is now a great deal of popularity around women's retellings of myth from fictional narratives to creative non-fiction and expository pieces that re-explain the stories and what gets left out of the originals. Your task for this project is to retell a myth.

This is an expository project. You must tell us what the story is, but you must also move beyond merely telling the story to:

- a. explaining what you see about this myth that might be different from the traditional/original approach, or
- b. explaining a part of the story that often gets left out or ignored, or
- c. comparing/contrasting your interpretation of the myth to others' interpretations, or
- d. defining what makes the story a myth in the first place, or
- e. offering a solution to the problem of misunderstanding and misinterpretation.

Your goal is NOT persuasion, but to explain your own perspective.

Your expository project should be in the form of an essay 5-7 pages long.

You will need to support your claim in detail and by citing and synthesizing valid research and sources. These may range from Wikipedia articles, to scholarly sources about the myth, to creative non-fiction essays about the myth, to personal narratives that explore the myth, and more.

1. **Choose a myth** from an ancient culture, a culture that you are a member of, or a contemporary myth. This should be something that you have a relationship to and care about.
2. Complete the **Expository Project Proposal** handout.
3. Compose your expository project in 5-7 pages.
4. Compose your critical reflection:
5. Include a MLA works cited page and screenshots of an AI prompts that you use.

## Rubric

Consult this document to know what you need to submit and the kinds of things that I am looking for in your assignments. The rubric includes elements of turning in the different pieces of your writing process, as well as assessment of the finished product of your essay.

The introduction informs the readers about the type of essay presented (compare/contrast, definition, etc.) and the author's purpose.	15 points
There is thesis/position statement that gives readers a clear sense of the essay's purpose. The thesis <i>does not</i> make an argument about the author's topic.	15 points
Essay includes detailed evidence that enhances the reader's understanding of the topic. Evidence comes from relevant and reliable sources. There are at least 5 sources included.	15 points
Essay has a coherent organizational structure that clearly presents information about a topic to the reader. The essay does not make an explicit attempt to persuade readers about a topic. Instead, essay remains informative, descriptive, and explanatory in nature.	15 points
The essay is proofread and is in MLA format with. Citations are correctly formatted according to MLA guidelines. You submit screenshots of AI prompts that you used and cite them in your works cited.	15 points
A complete expository project proposal handout with screenshots of AI prompts that you use at this stage.	10 points

Critical Reflection	15 points
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### **Critical Reflection: Retell a Myth Expository Project**

English 3090: Sladky

After you complete the expository essay for the class, compose a reflection about your experience. Address the following questions. Your reflection should be about 1-2 pages.

- What was your experience with the expository essay? What did you find challenging? What did you find easy? What surprised you?
- How would you evaluate the draft of the project that you turned in? What worked well? What was your favorite part of the exercise? What was challenging? What would you do differently if you were to do this again?
- What kinds of things changed because you were the one telling the story? How does your version differ from the version that you read/heard before? How did you make this story your own?
- What elements of exposition do you think that you utilized most effectively in this exercise?
- Include a MLA works cited page for sources and screen shots of AI prompts you used.

## Retell a Myth Better: Recomposition Final Project

English 3090: Dr. Sladky

**Due: Mon. Dec. 8, 11:59 PM**

Consider your retelling of a myth, your expository project. What is a better way to deliver this information?

Remix your expository project to deliver the information an infographic, PowerPoint, or tri-fold pamphlet. This platform allows you to create a multimodal version of your essay that can be presented to online audiences. Use platforms such as Canva, Piktochart, Venngage, Adobe Express, or others.

### Critical Reflection:

For a critical reflection on your remix assignment, you will write a cohesive essay in response to the following questions (**800-1000 words**). Respond to each question 1-6 below; use the bulleted sub-questions as guiding questions for you. Be sure to cite specific examples from your project to illustrate each point. Also, make sure to use effective transitions and links between paragraphs to connect your ideas in one cohesive writing.

1. Give background on your topic and explain its importance to you.
2. What audience did you intend to inform and what research did you find to develop your topic? What new conclusions have you drawn after conducting your research and then remixing it?
3. How did you incorporate rhetorical appeals (ethos, pathos, logos), and the rhetorical concepts of exigency and constraints, into your final project?
4. Reflect on the production process for creating your visual remix:
  - a. How did the affordances of this medium help you deliver your message?
  - b. How easy was it to create a text in this genre? Did you have to learn new technology?
  - c. What did you like most about your delivery? What surprised you or went wrong? What would you change if you had more time?
5. What skills/techniques do you feel you learned and/or improved during the remix process? Are there any skills you hoped to learn/improve that you feel you didn't? If so, what were they and why do you feel that you did not learn/improve them?
6. Share your final thoughts on your Visual Remix project experience:
  - a. What aspects of the assignment did you find the most useful for your future academic or professional purposes? Why?
  - b. What was the most challenging aspect of creating your visual remix? Why? How would you do it differently next time to avoid a similar challenge?
  - c. What was especially satisfying to you about either the process or the finished product? Why?

**Remix Requirements:**

- Remix of your expository project as an infographic, PowerPoint, or tri-fold pamphlet.
- Effective organization of your remix (think about design principles).
- Rhetorically effective visuals that support your main message or purpose.
- Tone and language appropriate to your audience.
- Effective use of audio, and any other modes (gestural, spatial, alphabetic) as appropriate to your final project.

**Essay Requirements:**

- Reflective essay of at least six paragraphs, 800 – 1000 words.
- Effective organization and rhetorical awareness (audience, purpose, context)
- Careful attention to all reflection questions

For both pieces, include an MLA works cited page as a separate document and include screenshots of any AI prompts that you used in your drafting process.

**Rubric**

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There is a remixed version of Essay 3 that remixes the message or purpose of your original text and delivers it effectively in an infographic.	25 points
The remix is organized effectively and evokes relevant visuals, tone, and rhetorical tools. If photos, videos, or references are used, <b>they are cited correctly in MLA format.</b>	25 points
Reflection essay has a clear organizational structure.	25 points
Reflection essay pays careful attention to each question and answers them in a comprehensive manner that conveys critical thinking.	25 points