**English 20-2 English Assignment**

**Comparing “The Odyssey” to “O Brother, Where Art Thou?”**

**Completed project is due on Thursday, Jan. 24th.**

**Goal:**

Compare and contrast the printed text of the “The Odyssey” to the non-print media of “O Brother, Where Art Though?”

**Description:**

You have read selections from Homer’s epic poem “the Odyssey” during which we discussed elements of the epic hero’s journey. Over the next few classes you will watch the Coen brothers’ film “O Brother, Where Art Though,” which is viewed as a clever update of Homer’s poem. Your assignment is to evaluate whether or not this claim is true by *comparing and contrasting* the epic poem and the film.

**Procedure:**

During the movie:

* Take note of any links to *characters* in “The Odyssey”
* Make notes of any similarities to events in “The Odyssey”
* Look for and make note of any of the elements of the *hero’s journey*
  + *Notes must be dated and included with final project.*

At the end of each class:

* Participate in small groups to discuss and share the notes that you took during the showing of the movie.

**Final Product Assignment:**

You have may choose from the following options in which to demonstrate your comparison of these two medias (text and movie).

1. For the writer: Write a compare/contrast paper of “The Odyssey” and “O Brother, Where Art Thou” in essay format. In your body paragraphs, explain what characters and events align between the two texts; match any elements of the pic hero’s journey you can find. This paper should be at least six paragraphs in length.
2. For the computer nut: Create a PowerPoint or video presentation that illustrates the extent to which “The Odyssey” and O Brother, Where Art Thou” are related. Include characters, events, and elements of the epic hero’s journey.
3. For the artist: Create an original piece of art such as a poster, painting, sketch, song, or poem that reflects your knowledge of the similarities and differences between “The Odyssey” and “O Brother, Where Art Thou.” Include characters, events, and elements of the epic hero’s journey.

**Grading:**

Project will be worth 100 points.

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|  | **High quality all-around** | **Flashes of brilliance:** | **Solid work:** | **Not there yet and/or not enough effort:** |
| Identification of the elements of the epic hero’s journey | Student identifies all or most of the elements of both the film and epic poem: explanations and/or summaries from both texts are relevant and thorough throughout (**45 pts.)** | Student identifies all or most of the elements in both the film and epic poem; explanations and/or summaries from both texts are mostly relevant and may lack consistency  (**35 pts.)** | Student identifies a majority of the elements in both the film and epic poem: explanations and/or summaries from the texts are will-chosen, yet lack depth.  **(30 pts.)** | Student identifies a few of the elements in both the film and epic poem; explanations and/or summaries are disconnected or so thin that they do not help support student claims  **(25 pts.)** |
| Compare/contrast of film to epic poem | Student identifies both similarities and differences for multiple aspects between the two texts; explanations of the links are well-reasoned; at least one link brings up a unique, thoughtful idea  **(45 pts.)** | Student identifies both similarities and differences for at three aspects of the two medias: explanations of the links are mostly well-reasoned; student tried to explain at least one unique link, yet the explanation is not unique. (**35 pts.)** | Student identifies both similarities and differences (2) between the two medias; explanation is sound, yet reasoning may at times be thin.  **(30 pts.)** | Student identifies at least one similarity and one difference; although links may be valid, explanations are either absent or do not support the link.  **(25 pts.)** |
| Completed on Time | Met due date, was able to present to class on due date.  **(10 pts.)** |  | Did not have work completed by due date needed extra day to complete  **(5 pts.)** | Did not have work completed by due date, needed an extra week to complete. **(2pts)** |