**Writing Assignment: The Epic Hero**

**Epic** *a long narrative poem that narrates the great deeds of a legendary, larger than life hero.*

**Epic Hero** *a brave and noble character in an epic poem, admired for great achievements or affected by grand events* who embodies the most deeply held values of a particular society.

**OBJECTIVE:** Student will create a detailed epic hero and a villain or obstacle for him or her to overcome, then craft an original short story 4-5 pages in length that tells his or her tale. Your story must be typed, double spaced and in MLA format.

**PART ONE: Character Outline - The Epic Hero Due: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Physical Appearance** - What does your hero look like? Provide a detailed description of him/her that includes height, weight, build, hair and eye color and any distinguishing characteristics (e.g. scars, handicaps).

**Character Exposition** – Where is your character from? What are the circumstances of his/her birth? Epic heroes usually have interesting origins, a birth that involves some supernatural elements. Is the hero watched over by a god or goddess or is he/she the child of a mortal and a god or goddess?

**Motivation** – What does the hero want/need? Why does he/she need it? Does the hero fight to protect a particular people or to achieve a particular goal?

**A Flaw** – Epic heroes are not infallible. Each has his/her own specific weakness. The hero’s weakness could be a physical characteristic or a personality trait (e.g. Gilgamesh freezes up when in the face of danger; Achilles is the victim of his own pride and anger).

**PART TWO: Character Outline – The Antagonist Due: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Appearance** – What does your hero’s enemy look like? Remember that the antagonist does not need to be human. He/she/it can be a god or goddess or an imaginary creature. Whatever you choose, provide a detailed description following the guidelines for the Epic Hero portion of this assignment above.

**Character Exposition** – Why does the antagonist oppose the protagonist? What is his/her/its history? Where does the antagonist live?

**PART THREE: Detailed Story Outline Due: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

The student will provide a typed, detailed outline of his/her story. Each part of the story must be explained in detail.

Your story must include the following elements:

* His/her story begins *in medias res,* “in the middle of things”
* The story must include at least one epic simile
* The hero’s and the antagonist’s origins must be explained
* The hero must undertake some kind of journey
* The hero must engage in one epic battle against his/her antagonist
* The hero may travel with others, but he/she must face his/her final task alone
* After the final task is successfully accomplished, the hero returns home and becomes a leader of his/her people

Your story may include the following elements:

* Kennings
* Alliteration
* Flashbacks
* Stock epithets

**PART FOUR: Rough Draft Due: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**PART FIVE: Final Draft Due: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**