

Firstname Lastname
CLCV 3XXX
Generic Myth

Argument Title (optional)

This is where the thesis statement belongs: right at the beginning of the argument. Don't start by explaining to me how myth began, what Generic Myth is, as opposed to myth in general, etc. etc. Just get right into it by telling me what you propose to show: "Elbonius is really the god of cows, not of elbows." "Nobody in Generic Myth ever cries." Something like that. See the syllabus for some topics and possible arguments, but you can make up your own topic, too (as long as it relates to this type of myth).

Then you should get right into supporting your thesis with evidence. But here I'm going to give you a few notes about format. Make sure your argument is double-spaced and in a standard 10-12 point font with 1-inch margins.

DON'T PUT (OR LET THE WORD-PROCESSOR PUT) EXTRA SPACE AFTER A PARAGRAPH. That's good style for single-spaced text, bad style for double-spaced text. Unfortunately, it also seems to be the default setting for word-processing programs these days. (In Word, pull down the FORMAT menu and select PARAGRAPH. In PARAGRAPH, go down to SPACING and put zeroes in where it says BEFORE and AFTER.)

Cite books by the author's last name and page number, like the following sentence:

Elbonius may have 12 elbows, but he himself says, "I am not the god of elbows" (Authorname, 517).

Cite poems by author (if known), title and line number, like the following sentence:

In fact, no one in the world thought that Elbonius was the god of elbows: "Some may think, and all may know/Elbonius is not the god of Elbow" (ElbowFan321, *Song of Elbows*, 17-18).

A "Works Cited" page isn't necessary, since the works you'll be quoting are the assigned texts. If you happen to quote something that wasn't assigned, of course tell me where that quote came from. But the less of that there is, the better.

Whenever you make a general statement ("Elbonius slept around a lot...") you should back it up with specific mythic examples, supported by specific citations, as above. One of the purposes of this assignment is for you to show me that you've read the assigned readings and have thought about them,

so don't waste time googling stuff (what some people call "research" nowadays). Just use the assigned texts.

You can write more than 500 words on an argument, but don't write less. I'll prorate your points accordingly. So an argument that's half the minimum length will lose half the points right away. In general, if you haven't gone to a second page, your essay isn't long enough.

Quotation of the source texts is good, but don't count those words as part of your total. I want a minimum of 500 words from you, not from Elbonius or the authors of the assigned texts.

Just type the "Name/Class" stuff at the top of the paper on the first page; don't put it in the document header. If you want to create a document header, just put into it "Lastname, page #" and make sure it doesn't appear on the first page. (There's a box you can check for this under : Format > Document > Layout.) But you really don't have to make a header for these assignments at all if you don't want to.

Avoid repetition: saying the same thing over and over and over again, redundancy and repetition, that sort of thing.