

This portion of your course work requires you to present a 5 to 7 minute oral report on an article relevant to our study of Mythology this semester and to submit an outline of the oral report. Each student will sign up for a particular article to research. The sign-up sheet will be passed around the first week of classes. Students are to adhere to their presentation date as it becomes a due date when signing-up. All articles are to be found in the text held on reserve in our library: **Willis, Roy, ed., *World Mythology* (New York: Henry Holt and Co., 1993)**

### **Outline Formatting Requirements**

1. On the day of your presentation, submit a document on white paper, double-spaced, using 11 or 12 size legible font, with a maximum of 1" margins on all sides. You will be penalized if this is not presented on the day of your presentation.
2. A title page is not necessary for your outline. Instead, put the following identifying information in the top left-hand corner of the first page: name, date, course title, professor's name
3. Give your oral report a title. This title should be placed after the identifying information (mentioned above). The title should be centered with a blank space above it and below it.
4. Provide bibliographic information after your title. Bibliographic information tells your reader where they could find the article. Example:
  - Davidson, Hilda Ellis, "Northern Europe," and "Early and Lost Gods: Fragments of Northern Myth," *World Mythology*, ed. Roy Willis (New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1993), 190-193.
5. Put your last name and page number in the top right corner of each page beginning on page 2, e.g., "Valdivia, 2.
6. Staple your paper in upper left-hand corner.

### **Components of your Outline**

The following are components you should include in your outline.

- A Title
- Your bibliographic information (Title, Author, Publisher, Date). Place this information after your title. (See formatting above)
- Brief Summary or Description of the Content, Thesis, or Work Overview
- Purpose: How Well Did the Author Achieve His/her Purpose?
- What arguments did the author use to support his/her purpose? Were you convinced? Why or why not?
- Analysis: (Your Reaction) What impact did the article have on you? What did you learn? What questions did the article raise for you? Did you agree with the conclusion? Why or why not?

Here is a wonderful quote from the eminent Samuel Johnson, 18th Century poet, journalist, essayist, literary critic, as his suggestion to beginning reviewers when analyzing a work:

"What did the writer try to do? How well did he do it? Was it worth doing in the first place?"

If you quote any part of the article, be sure to use quotation marks "~" to indicate the direct quotes.

### **Grading Criteria**

Your specific presentations will be graded on the following point system. Above average oral reports meet all these expectations clearly and consistently:

1. Content (30 points)
  - a. Identifies and states clearly the author(s) main argument(s)
  - b. Explains important terms or technical language
  - c. Summarizes the intentions of the author(s)
  - d. Leaves the audience with enough information to decide for themselves if they might be interested in the article
2. Critical Thought (30 points)
  - a. Does the student's report identify the supporting arguments of the article?

- b. Does the student's report allow listeners/readers to determine whether the article is worth reading by providing support or examples?
  - c. Does the student's report support his or her evaluations with examples?
3. Actual Oral Report (20 points)
    - a. Organized (ends on time – 5 to 7 minutes)
    - b. Practice is evident, flows
    - c. Educational
    - d. Audience-appropriate
    - e. Engaged with group
  4. Typed outline (20 points)
    - a. Title
    - b. Bibliographic information
    - c. Organized (see "components" listed above)
    - d. Main headings followed by supporting points
    - e. Anticipated questions

#### Presentation Goal

- Your goal is to state as clearly as possible the main argument(s) of your chosen article. This may be as brief as one or two sentences. If so, you would then elaborate upon how the main argument(s) is/are defended.
- Your goal should be seen to be in the service of informing those who have not read the article. Give us a clear indication of what the author's intentions are so a prospective reader may feel comfortable enough in deciding whether or not this article may be of interest to her.

#### Presentation Style & Delivery

- Relaxed but not too casual
- Reading from outline is acceptable.
- If you are not reading from outline, please memorize a skeleton outline to maintain a coherent structure.
- Visual Aids could be helpful if they can be incorporated into your presentation within the allotted time
- Handouts could be as simple as copies of your outline or diagrams or graphs relevant to the content of your presentation
- Neither of the above is discouraged or necessary – it's up to you.
- Speak more slowly and enunciate your words more than you would in a private conversation.
- Speak more loudly than you would in a private conversation.
- Be aware of speech inflection.
- Make eye contact with your audience members.

#### Overcoming Fear

- Some of you may be perfectly comfortable speaking in front of a group while others are quite uncomfortable.
- If you are anxious in any way, the best remedy is to practice a few times (preferably in front of a few trusted friends or family members), have your outline typed in larger font, and memorize the key points so you have the "big picture" in your head.
- Before you begin, take a deep breath, hold it, and release it through your nose slowly. Repeat this two times. This is a very simple and easy relaxation technique.

Sign-up Sheet: Articles to Review (Students are to sign up for one selection per date)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Article to be found in <i>World Mythology</i>, Roy Willis, ed.</b>	<b>Student's Name</b>
8/27	"Introduction" World Mythology, Roy Willis, ed. p. 10-16	
	"Creation" and "Cosmic Architecture" p. 18-21	
8/27	"Myths of Humanity" and "Supernatural Beings" p. 22-25	Kristen D
	"Cosmic Disasters" and "Heroes and Tricksters" p. 26-29	Edwardd B
9/17	"North America," "Creation Myths" and "Origins of Humanity" p. 220-223	Alexandra K
	"Africa" and "Origins of the World" p. 264-267	Alyssa G
9/17	"Northern Europe" and "Cosmology in the Viking Age" p. 190-191; 193-194	Chris O
	"Greece" and "Myth and Society" p. 124-126	Justin S
9/24	"Egypt" and "The First Gods" p. 36-39	Maggie H
	"The Ennead," "Osiris" and "Isis" p. 40-43	Sarah C
9/24	"The Middle East" and "Sumer and Babylon" p. 56-59	Rhaisa B
	"Ugaritic Myths" "Myths of the Hittites" and "Persian Myths" p. 64-67	
10/1	"India" and "Origins of the World" p. 68-71	
	"Indra" "Brahma" and "Vishnu" p. 72-75	
10/1	"Mesoamerica" and "Gods of the Maya" p. 234-236 and 248-249	Adriana A
	"The Old Gods," "Creations and Cataclysms" p. 236-238	Carlyn B
10/15	"Gods and Goddesses" p. 168-171	Vivianna J
	"Powerful Goddesses" and "Other Goddesses" p. 50-51	Mandie F
10/15	"Oceania" and "Myths of Origin" p. 288-291	Chloe W
	"Devi" and "Kali" p. 82-83	Farida G
10/22	"Ishtar and Tammuz" p. 61 and "Nu Gua and Fu Xi" p. 91-93	
	"Myths of the Family" p. 101	Jacqueline G
10/22	"Japan" and "Izanagi and Izanami" p. 110-114	Ignacio M
	"Amaterasu and Susano" and "The Divine Crisis" p. 115-117	John B

<b>Date</b>	<b>Article to be found in <i>World Mythology</i>, Roy Willis, ed.</b>	
11/5	“The Izumo Cycle” p. 118-120	Liliana T
	“Goddesses and Female Spirits” p. 202-203	Stacy W
11/5	“The Foundation of Rome” and “Romulus and the Kings of Rome” p. 172-175	Maria H
	“The Celtic World” p. 176-177 and “Goddesses” p. 186	James E
11/19	“Otherworldly Voyages” p. 187; “Stories of Wales” and “The Arthurian Legend” p. 188-189	Parker J
	“Loki and Ragnarok” and “Odin” p. 195-197	Corey J
11/19	“Thor” and Freyr and the Vanir” p. 198-201	Rubyanne P
	“The Dragon-Slayers” p. 204-205	Maria P
11/26	“Tezcatlipoca” and “Quetzalcoatl” 239-241	Gabriela D
	“Huitzilopochtli” and “Tlaloc and Fertility” p. 242-245	
11/26	“Eshu the Trickster” p. 274-275	Gunner B
	“Animal Myths” p. 276-277	Eli E
12/3	“Shamans” and “Tricksters” p. 226-227	Mary J
	“Navajo Myths” p. 228-229	Josaihas M
12/3	“Myths of the Maori” p. 294-295 and “Maui” p. 297	
	“Australia” and “The Big Flood” p. 278-281	Moises M
	“Death and Mourning” p. 282-283	Alex Q
	“Tricksters” p. 285	Oscar S
	“Shaping the Landscape” p. 296-287	
	“Sun, Moon and Stars” p. 94-95	Breana R
	“Tibet and Mongolia” p. 102-103	