

Example: Creating a Myth Planning Guide

Directions: You will be writing a myth about a modern-day hero in the style of a Greek myth. Use the following as a guide to start planning your myth.

General questions about the contemporary hero's life and achievement(s):

Question	Contemporary	My Myth (Based on Greek Mythology)
Hero	<i>Rosa Parks</i>	<i>Gaia—mother of Titans, mother of all</i>
Age	<i>42</i>	
Hero's Qualities	<i>Stood up for what she believed in—equality. She fought against segregation in the south. She was brave.</i>	<i>Earth mother. Manifested in enclosed spaces—the house, the courtyard, the womb, the cave. Sacred animals—snake, lunar bull, pig, bees. In her hand, poppy transforms to pomegranate. Symbol of unity of life and nature.</i>
Family	<i>Raymond—husband</i>	<i>Uranus (the sky)—husband</i>
Location	<i>Montgomery, Alabama—on a bus</i>	<i>On a chariot in ancient Greece</i>
Characters	<i>Bus driver</i>	<i>Hermes, messenger of Zeus—wore winged cap and winged shoes, robber, plunger, cattle driver, the patron of travelers</i>
	<i>Policemen</i>	<i>Ares—god of war</i>
	<i>MLK</i>	<i>Atlas—led the struggle between the Titans and Olympians; supported the sky on his shoulders</i>
	<i>Civil rights activists</i>	<i>Titans (over-reachers)</i>
Challenge	<i>She has to decide if she should continue to live her life abiding by the laws of segregation or stand up for what she believes in.</i>	<i>The Titans are treated as inferiors to the Olympians, even though they ruled before the coming of the Olympians. What should they do about their inferior status?</i>
Obstacles	<i>She has no rights and, as an African-American, is seen as an inferior person.</i>	<i>The Olympians were very powerful rulers led by Zeus. They had lots of powers.</i>
Overcoming Challenges	<i>She decides to stand up for what she believes in and take the risk of being arrested.</i>	<i>Gaia decides to take a stand against the Olympians. On the chariot, she transforms to ...</i>
Results	<i>Her arrest brought about the protests for more than a year. MLK led the civil rights movement. She says, "...and to let it be known wherever we go that all of us should be free and equal and have all opportunities that others should have."</i>	<i>She gives birth to the Titans who work together to defeat the Olympians. They are opposed to war, so they try to do this nonviolently. Atlas leads the struggle. They use nonviolent means...Atlas holds up the heavens.</i>