

Creation Myths

Creation myths are not just stories where something gets created; they are explanations of how life came to exist, how the world was formed. There are a lot of components that go into an interesting myth: the cosmogony (the process of how the world was actually created), the characters involved, how they interact with each other, the environment, where it all takes place, the positive and negative and their implications, etc. And I think we can all admit that some of the myths sound pretty strange and outrageous, but that's okay. After all, explaining how life is created is not easy.

In this assignment you will be a creator and you will be creating your own myth: a creation myth. It's your turn to describe how the world came into existence. You can create our world in any way you like, but try to remember some of the traditional elements of a creation myth. Will there be good and evil? Will there be action? Will it be "real," or outrageous? Do you have a cosmological plan? Will you create just the world, or will you add creatures? And don't cheat and say that aliens dropped us here; you have to *create* (even if that means creating aliens).

The myth should meet the following requirements:

- One page typed, double-spaced,
- Clean of grammatical and spelling errors,
- Contains a variety of sentence structures: simple, compound, complex,
- Is original and creative, not a regurgitation of the myths we have studied in class, and
- Is organized and does not jump around.

The rubric for this myth follows.

Writing Rubric

I will use the following rubric when evaluating your writing.

Title: Is there a title?

0. No, there is no title.
1. Yes, there is a title, but it is not interesting.
2. Yes, there is a title and it makes the reader want to read more.

Format: Does the document meet the requirement?

0. The paper is less than a page and is not typed.
1. The paper lacks one requirement.
2. The paper meets both requirements.

Organization: Is there an organizational scheme present?

0. No semblance of organization.
2. There is some organization either between paragraphs, or within paragraphs, but it slips a lot
3. Well-organized, with only occasional lapses.
4. Well-organized throughout with topic sentences and supporting detail.

Sentence structure: Are there simple, compound and complex sentences used?

1. The author relies on the same type of sentence throughout.
2. The author uses two types of sentences.
3. The author uses all three types of sentences.

Language and grammar: Does the paper use appropriate language, punctuation, and is it free of grammatical errors?

0. The paper is fraught with errors.
2. There are a number of errors or word choice issues.
4. There are some errors or word choice issues.
6. There are a few errors or word choice issues.
8. The paragraph is clean of errors or word choice issues.

Creativity: Does the author take a fresh look at creation and present new ideas?

1. The text is a regurgitation of myths we discussed in class.
2. Most ideas have been generated in class.
3. Most ideas have been generated in class but are presented with a fresh insight.
4. There are new ideas presented in the paper.

Content: Is it a good story? Do all of the characters and actions flow and fit?

2. There is a lot of confusion on the reader's part.
4. Generally, it follows a plot line.
6. There is a plot and only a few questions.
8. There is a solid plot line and no confusion on the part of the reader.
10. Superb!

