**Directions:** 12 Survey. Here is a list of essay topics that you may choose from for your first research-based essay. All of the major themes and motifs we have been discussing in class are here on this page and you will be using your notes from class and your DEJ’s to help you write this essay. You will notice that I have provided some links for you to use as your secondary source, but you are welcome to find your own (it must be approved by me first). The writing assignments with the \* indicate that this theme is also referenced in *Beowulf.*

**Option #1:** Some critics believe that *The Odyssey* is more about the heroic journey of Telemakhos than it is about Odysseus. In your essay, describe Telemakhos’ maturation as he develops in the story and prove whether or not he is the hero of *The Odyssey.*

* “The Authority of Telemachus” by Gottesman <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1525/CA.2014.33.1.31>
* “The role of Telemachus in *The Odyssey”* by Alden

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/4476555>

* “The Trials of Telemachus: Who Was The Odyssey Meant For?” by Murnagham <http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/are/summary/v035/35.1murnaghan.html>
* “The Hero with A Thousand Faces” by Joseph Campbel

**\*Option #2:** Often in literature, great epics are not only entertaining to read, but they say something about the society for which it was written. In what way does *The Odyssey* reflect the times in which it was written? What does this tell us about the way the ancient Greeks viewed heroism?

* Sale, William Merritt. "The Odyssey: Overview." *Reference Guide to World Literature*. Ed. Lesley Henderson. 2nd ed. New York: St. James Press, 1995. *Literature Resource Center*. Web. 16 Oct. 2014.

<http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CH1420004051&v=2.1&u=frlopacplus&it=r&p=LitRG&sw=w&asid=62d82a978fafbc0023c55f5b84c9d882>

* Bolotin, David. "The Concerns of Odysseus: An Introduction to the *Odyssey*." *Interpretation* 17.1 (1989): 41-57. Rpt. in *Classical and Medieval Literature Criticism*. Ed. Lawrence J. Trudeau. Vol. 166. Farmington Hills, MI: Gale, 2014. *Literature Resource Center*. Web. 16 Oct. 2014.

<http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CH1420118128&v=2.1&u=frlopacplus&it=r&p=LitRG&sw=w&asid=d926fff7df1ca85874acc5a042dba65e>

* Jebb, R. C. "The Homeric World." *Homer*. Boston: Ginn, 1899. 38-73. Rpt. in *Classical and Medieval Literature Criticism*. Ed. Lawrence J. Trudeau. Vol. 166. Farmington Hills, MI: Gale, 2014. *Literature Resource Center*. Web. 16 Oct. 2014.

<http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CH1420118121&v=2.1&u=frlopacplus&it=r&p=LitRG&sw=w&asid=b237682b1a39a2e2354914dad06d7b99>

* Bloom, Harold, ed. "Background to *The Odyssey*." *The Odyssey*, Bloom's Guides. New York: Chelsea House Publishing, 2007. *Bloom's Literature*. Facts On File, Inc. Web. 16 Oct. 2014

<http://www.fofweb.com/activelink2.asp?ItemID=WE54&WID=18815&SID=5&iPin=BGTBJTO003&SingleRecord=True>

**\*Option #3:** What is an epic, and how does *The Odyssey* fit that definition?

* Ford, James. "Heroism in *The Odyssey*." McClinton-Temple, Jennifer ed.*Encyclopedia of Themes in Literature*. New York: Infobase Publishing, 2011.*Bloom's Literature*. Facts On File, Inc. Web. 16 Oct. 2014

<http://www.fofweb.com/activelink2.asp?ItemID=WE54&WID=18815&SID=5&iPin=ETL0576&SingleRecord=True>

**\*Option #4:** Explain the role of revenge in the story. What are the consequences of taking revenge?