Odysseus had to endure and persevere through many situations on his journey home from Troy; a journey that should have taken him only a few short months took him nearly 17 years. Clearly it didn’t quite turn out how he planned. Along the way he had both positive and negative experiences that laid the trail for his journey home. Your lives are much the same. From the time you were born various events have helped chart the path to where you are today.

For this three part assignment you will create journey graphs for both you and Odysseus. Let’s see exactly what that means.

INTRODUCTION: WHAT’S A JOURNEY GRAPH ANYWAY?

A journey graph is simply a time line that plots a person or a character’s journey through life. The difference however, between a journey graph and a timeline is that a graph doesn’t just plot events; it plots each events degree of positivity or negativity. See handout for an example.

PART ONE: YOUR JOURNEY

In this first part of your assignment, you will create your own journey graph. This part has four steps.

Step One: On a separate sheet of paper, write down one significant event from each year of your life from the day you were born until the present. (If you can’t remember that far back ask a parent, sibling, grandparent, etc to help you recall some.) The event should be significant to YOU. While getting a pet goldfish named Goldie may not seem important to someone else but if it was a major moment in your life add it to the list. (You should have between 13-16 of these depending on your age.)

Step Two: Place each event into one of three categories: positive, negative, or neutral. In a few sentences please explain why the event was significant to you.

Step Three: Decide the degree of positivity or negativity for each event. For example, losing your favorite doll may be negative but not as negative as loosing your dog. You will rate the significance of each event on a scale of -5 to +5 with +5 being the absolute best thing that could have happened to you and -5 being the worst.

Step Four: Plot your points on your journey graph making sure to label EVERYTHING. (You will make your life graph on a sheet of paper no smaller than 8.5 x. 14. You can always you larger piece but please make sure it isn’t too big. In other words, please don’t give me a journey graph that extends 20 feet down the hallway.)

PART TWO: THE WORLD

Although you were the most important thing that happened the year you were born, there were some other pretty important events going on as well. For this part of the assignment you will lay a second graph on top of your journey graph identifying at least six major/world events that happened during your life up to now. (See handout for example).

PART THREE: ODYSSEUS’ JOURNEY

In this third part of your assignment, you will create a journey graph for Odysseus. This part has four steps.

Step One: On a separate sheet of paper, write down one significant event from each year Odysseus journey home from Ithaca. The poem will give you some hints as to which event first, second, etc for the rest give it
your best guess WITHIN REASON. Remember the *Odyssey* is told completely in **flashback** until he begins his journey home to Ithaca in book 13 so just because the epic poem is retold beginning with Athena convincing the gods to release Odysseus from Calypso’s island, that doesn’t mean that’s where his journey home begins. (That event actually comes in the middle of his story after he’s lost his entire crew.) Some events may span 3-5 years of the journey graph (e.g. Odysseus’ time spent on the island of Circe) which is okay. (You should have 15-17 of these depending on how you interpret the number of years Odysseus was away)

**Step Two:** Place each event into one of three categories: **positive**, **negative**, or **neutral**. In a brief paragraph (5-7 sentences) please explain why you feel the event was significant, either positively or negatively. For example, you may decide that Odysseus’ encounter with Polyphemus was significant in a positive way because it allowed Odysseus to show how cunning he was in his defeat of the Cyclops. On the other hand you may decide that Odysseus’s encounter with Polyphemus was negatively significant because it highlighted one of his epic flaws which ultimately resulted in the deaths of many of his crew members.

**Step Three:** Decide the degree of positivity or negativity for each event. For example, Odysseus’ time spent on the island of Calypso may be positive but it may not be as positive as his arrival home. You will rate the significance of each event on a scale of -5 to +5 with +5 being the absolute best thing that could have happened to Odysseus and -5 being the worst.

**Step Four:** Plot your points on the journey graph making sure to label EVERYTHING. (You will make Odysseus’ life graph on a sheet of paper no **smaller** than 8.5 x. 14. You can always you larger piece but please make sure it isn’t too big. In other words, please don’t give me a journey graph that extends 20 feet down the hallway.) **Your graph should be neat, colorful, and easy to read.**

ALL sections of the assignment are due on _______________________________

**BONUSES:** You know I don’t do extra credit second semester but I’m making an exception. Earn an additional 20 bonus points on your assignment by adding the journey graph of **either** Telemachus or Penelope to Odysseus. (Both of them were on their own life journeys too). See the back of the graph example to see what this might look like.
**Rubric for Journey Performance Assessment**  
*9th Grade Literature & Composition*  
**DUE __________________________**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Event Explanations</td>
<td>Explanations for both the personal journey and Odysseus’s journey are clear and well written. Each explanation is a minimum of 3-5 sentences long. A category of either positive, negative or neutral has been assigned to each event. <em>At least 6 world events have been included on the Personal Graph</em></td>
<td>Explanations for <em>either</em> the personal journey <em>or</em> Odysseus’s journey are clear and well written. Each explanation is a minimum of 3-5 sentences long. A category of either positive, negative or neutral has been assigned to each event. <em>At least 5 world events have been included on the Personal Graph</em></td>
<td>Explanations for <em>either</em> the personal journey <em>or</em> Odysseus’s journey are clear and well written. Each explanation is <em>less than the minimum 3-5 required sentences</em>. A category of either positive, negative or neutral has been assigned to at least 50% of the events. <em>At least 4 world events have been included on the Personal Graph</em></td>
<td>Neither explanations for the personal journey <em>nor</em> Odysseus’s journey are clear and well written. Each explanation is <em>less than the minimum 3-5 required sentences or is missing altogether</em>. A category of either positive, negative or neutral has been assigned to less than 50% of the events. <em>Three or fewer world events have been included on the Personal Graph</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Events - Personal</td>
<td>13-16 events have been recorded</td>
<td>11-12 events have been recorded</td>
<td>9-10 events have been recorded</td>
<td>Fewer than 9 events have been recorded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Events - Odysseus</td>
<td>15-17 events have been recorded</td>
<td>12-14 events have been recorded</td>
<td>9-11 events have been recorded</td>
<td>Fewer than 9 events have been recorded.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plotting the Graph - Personal</td>
<td>13-16 events have been <em>correctly</em> plotted on the graph. All points on the graph have been labeled correctly.</td>
<td>11-12 events have been <em>correctly</em> plotted on the graph. All points on the graph have been labeled correctly.</td>
<td>9-10 events have been <em>correctly</em> plotted on the graph. Most points on the graph have been labeled correctly.</td>
<td>Fewer than 9 events have been <em>correctly</em> plotted on the graph and/or most points on the graph have been labeled correctly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plotting the Graph - Odysseus</td>
<td>15-17 events have been <em>correctly</em> plotted on the graph. All points on the graph have been labeled correctly.</td>
<td>12-14 events have been <em>correctly</em> plotted on the graph. All points on the graph have been labeled correctly.</td>
<td>9-11 events have been <em>correctly</em> plotted on the graph. Most points on the graph have been labeled correctly.</td>
<td>Fewer than 9 events have been <em>correctly</em> plotted on the graph and/or most points on the graph have been labeled correctly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>Journey graphs are colorful, creative, and easily read.</td>
<td>Journey graphs are colorful, creative, but not easily read.</td>
<td>Journey graphs are <em>either</em> colorful, creative, or easily read but not all three.</td>
<td>Journey graphs are <em>neither</em> colorful, creative, nor easily read.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL AVAILABLE POINTS: 24/24**