



## Grade 9: Unit 2 Part A: Benchmark Assessment: Researched Argument Essay

**Directions:** Write a 750 word (minimum) **research-based argument essay** focusing on a Modern Archetypal/Epic Hero of your choice. The essay will include textual support, follow MLA style citation (both in-text and Works Cited), and utilize a minimum of three sources.

Writing will be scored using the Researched Argument Essay Rubric.

### **Needs:**

- Have *at least* three credible sources
  - \*\*Research a minimum of three interdependent sources and take detailed notes with proper source information to be included in your works cited and in-text (parenthetical) citations. Optional: Copy/Print articles and highlight information. Be sure you have all source information!
  - \*\* Be careful with internet sites. Anyone can put up a webpage and call him/herself an expert.
- Contain Signal Phrases for all quoted material
  - \*\*Example of a signal phrase: According to Jill Smith in her article titled “Mythology Rocks” she states, “. . . “
- Contain a solidly worded claim/thesis
  - \*\*This type of thesis contains at least three specific elements that you will prove in your essay. Example: Though there are many Greek heroes, Achilles is the greatest because he is nearly immortal, he has a goddess for a mother, and he is a legend in his own time.
- Follow MLA formatting such as:
  - \*\*In-text citation (parenthetical notation)
  - \*\*Conclude with a works cited page
  - \*\*Typed
  - \*\*Double-spaced
  - \*\*Correct page heading and page numbers
  - \*\*Plain, 12 point font
- Use academic language
  - \*\**NO* first or second person personal pronouns (I, you, me, my, your, our, we, us)
  - \*\*Avoid contractions (it’s, there’s, they’re, etc.), and no slang
- Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone while attending to conventions.
- Demonstrate writing as a process
  - \*\*Utilize a graphic organizer in the pre-writing phase
  - \*\*Create a draft
  - \*\*Utilize editing practices (both self and peer)
  - \*\*Publish according to MLA style

**Sample Essay Prompt:** Write a 750 word (minimum) **research-based argument essay** in which you follow correct MLA style formatting. In this essay, you will persuade your reader that a character/person of your choosing displays at least three elements of an archetypal/epic hero thus enabling him/her to be considered a modern day archetypal/epic hero.