As always, this assignment consists of an essay component, a visual component, and a presentation. The information we have covered and applied to our study of *The Odyssey* will now be applied to a contemporary hero.

**Your initial tasks:**
1. Choose a contemporary (within the last 20 years) person who has overcome major obstacles to accomplish something heroic. Your choice must be a researchable person of local, national, or international significance, embodying the cultural values of OUR society.
2. Conduct basic research to ensure your choice allows for a minimum of 2 different types of sources and ample information about his/her life, obstacles, character traits, and accomplishments.
3. Submit a project proposal to receive approval of your topic. I strongly suggest having a back-up plan in case someone else has already been approved for your topic. No two students in any class period will be allowed to write about the same person.

**Writing Component:** In a well-developed essay, explain how your chosen person’s life journey makes him or her a hero. Keep in mind, you are not writing a biography about this person. You are also not writing to outline the entire hero’s journey. Instead, you are writing to explore what makes this person heroic. You will focus on the following:

- Two main obstacles the person faced
- The physical, mental, emotional, or interpersonal struggles the person endured to overcome those obstacles
- Personal character traits that aided the person in overcoming the obstacles (strengths)
- Personal character traits that hindered the person’s success in overcoming the obstacles (weaknesses) with information/explanation of how he/she overcame those weaknesses
- Accomplishments that have a local, national, or international impact/significance
- The lesson(s) YOU learned from this hero’s journey (obstacles, struggles to overcome, and accomplishments)

- Your essay requires research. We will spend class time working on MLA requirements for formatting and documentation. In general, however, all essays must follow these rules:
  - Typed
  - Black ink only
  - Times New Roman font
  - 12 pt. font
  - Double Spaced
  - One inch margins
  - Proper header
  - In-text parenthetical citations
  - Works Cited Page

- You must take notes from and properly cite two different resources. Both may come from online sources, but they must be different in content style (newspapers, magazines, journals, etc.)

- Your essay must be a minimum of five distinct sections/paragraphs. Suggested organization includes:
  1. Introduction with basic information about the person
  2. Obstacle #1 with character traits, struggle, and outcome
  3. Obstacle #2 with character traits, struggle, and outcome
  4. Ultimate accomplishments, judgment as hero
  5. Conclusion with lesson learned by YOU
**Visual Component:** Create a visual representation of the entire hero’s journey or life map for the person you researched. In class, we discussed the hero’s journey and its application to several contemporary films. This time, you will apply the same story structure to the life of a real-life hero. Your project may be organized in one of two ways:

1. **Circle structure** – in a circular template, use the information you gathered to illustrate and identify the 12 stages of the hero’s journey. For each stage, you will need a picture/illustration and a brief explanation.

   In the center of the circle, you will place your hero’s name, portrait (printed from online or hand-drawn), and an original epithet about the hero.

2. **Road map structure** – if there are any components of the structured hero’s journey that you cannot fill with factual information, or if you’d simply prefer a different design shape, you may use a road map design instead. You are still required to incorporate 12 life events that closely match the hero’s journey, but the structure and order are not as strict.

   At the top of the map, you will place your hero’s name, portrait (printed from online or hand-drawn), and an original epithet about the hero.

Either design choice may be presented on poster (1/2 size poster will be the only size accepted), power-point, prezi, or video. Other ideas require approval.

Either design choice should be neatly constructed in full color. Maximum effort must be demonstrated for credit to be given. It is quite obvious when visuals are thrown together at the last minute.

**Presentation:** You will prepare and present a brief 2-3 minute presentation about the person you researched and his/her journey map. You will NOT read your essay or read directly from the map. Instead, you will share the key obstacles, struggles, accomplishments, and lessons learned in a short memorized (note-cards are allowed) speech. You may reference your journey map as a visual aide only.

At this point in the year, your presentation skills should be improving. For this presentation, you will be assessed on your voice projection, word choice, connection with the audience, preparation, appearance, and other skills to be discussed in class.