**Theory of Knowledge with Dr. Neal February 2017**

**Exploring Archetypes**

*“Myth is the software, the cultural DNA, the unconscious information, what governs the way we see reality and the way we behave.” --Joseph Campbell*

*“This we know. The earth does not belong to man; man belongs to the earth. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of earth. This we know. All things are connected like the blood which unites one family. All things are connected.” --Chief Seattle*

Although many people consider myths to be fiction, mythology searches for universal truths. Symbolic patterns that tend to appear over and over in a variety of different cultures are known as **archetypes.** They have been passed down through myths, literature, and the visual arts of people throughout time. Because archetypes occur at different times within various cultures, they suggest universal meanings for humanity. No matter how diverse cultures seem to be on the outside, archetypes show that humans are actually very similar.

Archetypes are not simply a medium of the past. They are timeless, universal symbols that appear in the stories, songs, and film of today. Think of an archetype as an original pattern, mold, prototype, and repetitive pattern. Analyzing myths and archetypes help us understand how they impact what we know and how we think we know.

**Areas of Knowledge to which Archetypes Connect:**

* Ethics
* The Arts
* History
* Human Science
* Religious Knowledge
* Indigenous Knowledge
* Maths?
* Natural Science

**How to Proceed:**

1. Sign up for one of the archetypal patterns.
2. Research several myths from various cultures that address this archetype.
3. Meet with other class members who signed up for the same archetype.
4. As a team, compile your data, create a chart, and prepare a presentation for the rest of the class.

**Due Dates:**

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| **GROUP ACTIVITY** | **DUE DATE** |
| Collection of Myths | **Tues/Wed, Feb. 9/10** |
| Archetype Chart | **Thurs/Tues, Feb. 11/16** |
| Presentation | **Wed/Thurs, Feb. 17/18** |

**Requirements:**

1. Help your group collect a minimum of **5 myths from different cultures** that address your archetype. These might include Classical Greek, Biblical, Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Persian, Indian (from India), Chinese, Japanese, African, Native American Tribes, Norse, Anglo-Saxon and others. (Note: Be sure to keep track of your sources to include in a bibliography.)
2. As a group, compare the myths and create an archetypal chart to show a pattern that appears across time and cultures, using three to five different cultures. Draw conclusions (i.e., cultural connections, universal connections, central questions addressed, messages sent.)
3. Participate with your group in preparing a presentation of your archetype to teach it to the rest of the class with an emphasis on how your archetype has **influenced knowledge** over time, cultures, and areas of knowledge. Be sure to **acknowledge and analyze knowledge claims and knowledge questions** embedded in these myths and archetypes.
   * Find examples of your archetype in **modern day** media such as movies, advertisements, currents events, real life issues, urban legends.
   * Create a thesis that asserts how knowledge claims of your archetype have continued and/or changed from the ancient past into the present. Emphasize the connections and the contrasts. Write a **paragraph that explains** how your group intends to support (demonstrate) this thesis for the class during your presentation. Acknowledge knowledge claims and questions that arise from this archetype. **Turn in a hard copy of this paragraph** **along with your thesis statement, copy of your chart, and bibliography BEFORE your group presentation begins.**
   * Plan a **10-20 minute presentation** of your thesis for the class. This should include visuals to help the class better understand the archetype. You may want to make posters, create a Google Presentation, or find video clips, news articles, and pictures to include in the presentation. **Visuals are required**.
4. **Group** **Presentations:**

* Keep your presentations within the 10-20 minute limits.
* Be sure this is a **team interactive** presentation.
* Side by Side presentations can receive no higher than a C.

## Archetypes for this Project:

Creation Good vs. Evil

Female/Goddess Worship Quest for Knowledge

Floods and other Destructive Forces Quest for Immortality

Initiation/ Coming of Age Death and Resurrection

Hero’s Journey Order vs. Passion

Monsters

*We shall not cease from exploration*

*And the end of all our exploring*

*Will be to arrive where we started*

*And know the place for the first time*

*When the last of earth left to discover*

*Is that which was the beginning*

*At the source of the longest river*

*The voice of the hidden waterfall. --T.S. Eliot*