

Journey of the Hero
Student & Parent Agreement Contract
for

(Students: please print your name legibly)

Please read the following, sign below and return this page to your house teacher by Monday, August 26th.

Parents!



Review the following project packet. All the parts of the project, known as components, will affect your student's grade in his or her classes!

- Students and Parents/Guardians should carefully review the calendar and due dates for the Journey of the Hero project. Parents can use the project calendar to monitor student progress on specific components. ***Components require hours and hours of work and should be started 2-3 weeks ahead of their scheduled due date.***
- Project components are evaluated on their quality, completeness, presentation and technical merits. Students are also assessed on their successful completion and implementation of iPoly's ESLRs (Expected School-wide Learning Results).
- Attendance at the Final Presentation on the evening of Thursday, December 12th is **mandatory** for all freshman students. Parents are encouraged to attend.

We have reviewed the Journey of the Hero Project Packet in its entirety and understand the requirements for the project.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

- I can bring bottled water, cans of soda, and individually packaged chips and/or cookies for the final presentation on Thursday December 12th. Please contact me at _____*
(parent email)

Thank you in advance for your support!

-The Freshman Teaching Team

The Journey of the Hero

Project Description

Students will examine their heroes and themselves in this interdisciplinary project that emphasizes values, self-discovery, teamwork and critical thinking. “The Journey of the Hero” is organized into “components”: specific assignments with due-dates spread throughout the semester. The project introduces students to the iPoly team concept by allowing them to work first on individual components, then with small groups of three to five. The components are designed to incorporate the disciplines of social science, science, language arts, mathematics, and visual arts into one thematic experience. The project also introduces the concept of expert feedback by exposing the students to critiques from upper classmen. The project culminates in a celebration of students’ accomplishments and discoveries.

Essential Question

For each component, the students will be asked to think about their experiences and respond to a reflective question about that component. Each of these questions will be recorded in a journal. The responses to these questions will lead a student to an answer to the Essential Question at the end of the project. The Essential Question is what drives the project, gives it meaning, and focuses the students’ learning. It is an open-ended question - without one correct answer - that could be answered in many different ways. The Essential Question for the Journey of the hero project is: *“What choices or actions define a hero?”*

Before Night on the Red Carpet, student groups will sit in front of all four teachers who will ask a random reflective question and/or the Essential Question. Students will be given time to review their reflective journals and discuss their answers as a team.

E	Answer is articulate, insightful and original; supports answer with multiple strong examples that includes class content
AE	Answer is articulate and demonstrates forethought; supports answer with multiple examples, at least one of which makes a connection to class content
P	Answer demonstrates forethought; opinion is backed up with evidence
AP	Answer <u>does not</u> demonstrate forethought: it is hesitant or unoriginal; evidence is unclear or weak
CR	Answer is difficult to comprehend; it makes little or no sense; little or no evidence is given for opinion
NC	Unintelligible mumbling or silence

General Learning Outcomes

- Students will make thematic connections between integrated subject areas through a variety of learning activities.
- Students will articulate their values by examining the heroes that have meaning to them.
- Students will be able to discuss the complex “nature vs. nurture” academic debate from a variety of perspectives including psychology and genetic heredity.
- Students will demonstrate competency in collaboration to achieve common goals and objectives.
- Students will demonstrate appropriate and professional oral and visual presentation skills.
- Students will receive and accept constructive criticism from more experienced peers.

Project Components

Note: Contracts listing specific criteria for each of the following components will be handed out during the semester.

1. Personal Mission Statement

Students will develop a short statement of goals, values, and beliefs that they intend to live by and follow this school year. **Due: Aug 30th** Reflective Question: What is the biggest challenge you must overcome in order to achieve your goals?

2. Self Portrait/Hero Portrait

Utilizing visual art techniques, students will create a realistic, present day portrait of themselves alongside their chosen personal hero. **Due: Nov 12th** Reflective Question: What qualities or characteristics make you admire your chosen hero?

3. Math Song

Working with two partners, students will write, produce and perform a two minute “math song” that explains and teaches a math formula, concept or procedure. **Due: Various due dates in September and October.** Reflective Question: What is the best quality you possess when working with others and what is one way in which you want to improve your working relationship with others?

4. Genealogical Pedigree

Students will research and create a genealogical pedigree that track’s a selected genetic trait in their own family history. **Due: Sept 27th** Reflective Question: How do your genetic traits influence your life?

5. Greek Mythology Presentation

Students will take on the role of their assigned Greek hero, monster, god or goddess in a timed and structured individual presentation. Creativity and attention to detail are encouraged as they explore the significance of their character’s role in Greek Mythology.

Due: October 14th – 18th Reflective Question: What is the best example of an ancient goal, value, or belief that is still important today?

6. Academic Hero Comic Book

In teams of four or five, students will develop a comic book (or graphic novel, manga, etc.) that that explains and teaches the importance and work of a psychologist, scientist, mathematician or author. **Due: Nov 18th – 20th.** Reflective Question: What qualities do heroes have that distinguish them from average people?

7. Academic Hero Comic Book Presentation

After developing their academic hero comic book, student teams will pitch their story ideas in a five to ten minute presentation to the senior class. **Due: Nov 18th – 20th.** Reflective Question: Is your assigned academic hero really a “hero”? Why or why not?

8. “Night on the Red Carpet” (Awards Ceremony)

The project culminates in an evening ceremony in which outstanding achievement in each of the components is recognized. **December 12th, 2013.**

Journey of the Hero Project Calendar

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
August	19	20 First day of School	21	22	23 Due: Freshman Policy Form <i>Journey of the Hero project packet introduction</i>
	26 Due: JotH Parent Agreement Form	27 <i>1st day of elective</i>	28	29	30 Due: Personal Mission Statement
September	2 Labor Day	3	4	5	6 Due: Photos for Portrait
	9	10	11	12	13 Due: Lyrics for Math Song #1-12
	16	17	18	19	20 Due: Lyrics for Math Song #13-24 Due: Genealogical Pedigree 1st Draft
	23 (CalPoly Fall Qtr starts - plan ahead!) Due: Portrait Grid Check	24	25 Due: Math Song #1-12	26	27 Due: Lyrics for Math Song #25-36 Due: Genealogical Pedigree Final Draft
	30	1	2	3	4
Oct			2 Due: Math Song #13-24		4 Due: Lyrics for Math Song #37-48 Due: Comic Book Research

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
October	7	8	9 Due: Math Song #25-36	10	11
	14	15	16	17	18
	Greek Presentations				
			Due: Math Song #37-48		Due: Comic Book Concept & Model Sheets (Sketches)
	21	22	23	24	25 Due: Comic Book Story Line (50%)
28	29	30	31	1 Due: Layout (50%) Due: Comic Book Story Line (100%)	
	Due: Portrait Progress Check (Checkerboard)				
November	4	5	6 <i>MC Auditions for NotRC</i>	7 <i>MC Callbacks for NotRC</i>	8 Due: Comic Book Line Art Illustrations (50%)
	11 Veteran's Day	12 Due: Self Portrait/ Hero Portrait Final	13	14	15 Due: Comic Book Project Display Board
	18	19	20	21	22 <i>Spring semester project "That's Infotainment" introduction</i>
	Group Comic Book Presentations				
	25	26	27	28	29
Thanksgiving Holiday – No School					

December	2	3	4	5	6
	Team Reflections			Semester 1 Final Exams	
	9	10	11	12 <u>Late Start: 1:29</u> <i>"Night on the Red Carpet"</i> 7pm Cal Poly Student Union	13
	16	17	18	19	20
	23	24	25	26	27
Winter Break – No School					