

# First Essay Assignment

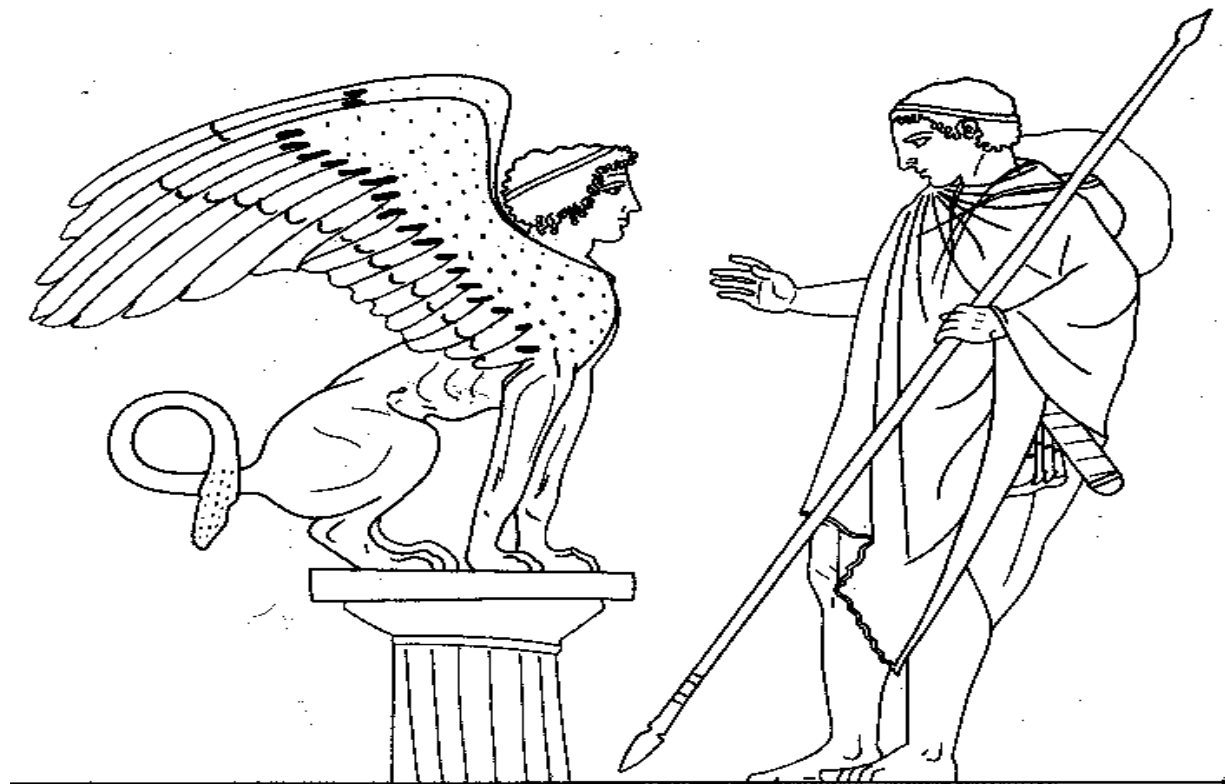
*Due Tuesday, September 3.*

*Five pages, double-spaced, paginated. At the top of the first page, place your original title and your name. If you use outside sources, you will need to document them.*

This assignment asks you to compose a personal narrative, meaning that the main evidence supporting the argument is drawn from your experience. Tell a story, but use it to make a critical point, or to deliver an important insight. You are welcome to cite Barthes or other sources, though this is not necessary.

Focus *very closely* on particular event or episode in your life, in which something you believed turned out to be a myth, or you began seriously to question it. The least interesting responses to this assignment concern early childhood figures, like Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny. You are more likely to succeed with a more recent and complex experience from high school, college, love relationships, or the work world.

Do not assume that the meaning of the words, “myth” and “mythology,” are a given. In this essay, it is up to you to define how you use them.



*Oedipus and the Sphinx*