English 9
Tips and Admonitions for *Iliad* Project

Here is a gathering of the information that I have given so far:

1. **Project presentation should be 5 minutes long.** Time yourself. Because you have two field trips next week, we need the presentations to move along efficiently. I will let you know when you are at 5 minutes, and at 5.30 you will be stopped. Presentations with two participants should be 8–9 minutes; presentations with three participants should be 12–13 minutes.

2. **The purpose of the project is to develop—i.e., to add to—our knowledge of *The Iliad*.** The project is for you to learn more and to think creatively, yes, but it's more for the audience, the class, to understand more about this text. Think of your audience as you work. What does it know? What does it need to know?

3. With the above note as an admonition, be creative. Feel free to have a relevant, simple costume if you would like, to act out part of the text, and so on.

4. **The project needs to have a visual component**, such as a tri-fold or a slide show. Our room is pretty small, but anything you build needs to "read" from the seminar table. This means it should be primarily pictures, rather than primarily words.

5. Indeed, a slide show should have only a few notes on it for you to refer to. Having your whole presentation on the slides will make your presentation boring, and everyone will try to write everything down, which will be slow and disruptive to you. Instead, have primarily pictures on your slide show and read from notes. One student asked if she could use handouts for the class. That is fine, but the handout, too, should primarily have an outline of the project for students to fill in with notes.

6. **Finally, your last slide or separate sheet to hand in will feature the works you consulted or cited in your presentation**. This Works Consulted page would have MLA-style citations for the sources you have used. Use the Purdue OWL to help you.

7. While you are not required to use only scholarly sources, avail yourself of the school's JSTOR subscription. If you are looking up art works, use a curated site, like Google Arts and Culture, to help you make sure you are choosing well regarded examples. Be sure to collect citation information for works as you go.

8. **Turn your presentation materials in to the slot in Jupiter before the due date**. You will give any presentation from my computer, for simplicity's sake, so you actually do have to turn in your work before the presentation. You will not be allowed to project from your own device.

9. With any presentation for any class, do not have dead time. Be ready to start at the start time. If you need to do set-up, do it before class or before school. The clock begins when you are called on.

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Students are asking about the More *Iliad* projects.

1. Remember your goal.

2. Remember coherence: What do we know already? How does new information fit in? What do we need to know?

3. Quickly summarize the action of your chosen Book. If you want to give a handout with the summary, that can save you time.

4. **Focus on what your Book adds to the whole of the text**. Give examples from characterization, theme, and style.

5. What visual element might you make that adds value? Think of prominent images from the text—are they symbols?