

Dr. Irby-Massie
Classical Mythology
Stylistic Guidelines

1. Follow Directions.
2. Proofread!
3. Keep your style concise, simple, and straightforward.
4. Do not endeavor to obfuscate your musings with manifoldly unnecessary modification of adjectives and adverbs contributing nothing to the issuant points at hand.
5. Do not use a choppy style: Penelope was a Greek woman. She lived in Ithaca. Her husband was away for a very long time. A lot of men wanted to marry her. She was very sad.
6. Try subordination: Penelope, a Greek woman from Ithaca, managed the estate well while her husband Odysseus was away at war and hoards of suitors pestered her for marriage.
7. Don't use contractions.
8. Italicize book titles: *Odyssey, Iliad*
9. Italicize non-English words: *xenia, homosophryne*
10. Use who/whom for people: Penelope *who*...
11. Use what/which/that for things: Penelope admired the *necklace that* Antinoos had given her
12. Their/there are easily confused: *Their* means "of them"; *there* means "yonder"
13. Be careful about pronoun-antecedent agreement, even if means using "politically incorrect" syntax. *Someone went to the store. He bought a gallon of milk* (we do not know the gender of the consumer). *One usually prefers his own opinions.*
14. Be consistent with verb tenses (keep everything in the present tense or in the past tense whenever possible)
15. Avoid the first person
16. Proofread!
17. Do not split infinitives: **to go** boldly where no one has gone before
18. Never *try and...*, always *try to...*
19. Be careful about subject verb agreement: men like..., a boy likes...
20. Avoid redundant repetitive repetitious use of modifiers and qualifiers.
21. Use comparative and superlative adjectives and adverbs sparingly (if you have a 'very,' strike it)
22. The passive voice in English should **be used** sparingly.
23. Do not summarize plots (e.g., write to your audience and remember that the professor knows the stories). Incorporate plot details as necessary to support your argument
24. If you choose to write an adaptation of a Greek play, incorporate dialogue from the ancient version.
25. Citations: you may use any consistent form to cite your sources within text or as footnotes. Include author and page number (Moreford and Lenardon, 523; Ovid, 39). A bibliography appended to the end of your essay will include full publication details.
26. Proofread!

