Assessment of this WS: Poor
This student offered thin answers to all questions and didn’t show much probing thought or work. The WS is stronger for the first website than for the second. For WS1 (theoi.com), the student was able to articulate a purpose for the website (question 7) but did not understand the impact of the complexity of the website’s organization (questions 4 and 5). She noted the evidence the website offers, but mistook how that might be useful to or send a message to users (questions 6 and 7). For the second website (onespirit.com), her answers were less critical; she seemed to come to judgment on the purpose of the site, and did not really scrutinize how the organization and lack of evidence supported that purpose.

Research Worksheet #1
Website review

Instructions
In this assignment you are asked to visit and explore a pair of websites, and to review them using the attached worksheet. This assignment is worth 100 points, or 10% of your grade.

For each website, don’t restrict yourself to the given page only. If links on that page send you to related pages, please explore them. Please download this worksheet, fill it out electronically, and turn it in via SafeAssign sometime on Friday September 11. You need not keep the first page. Thank you.

Goals
This worksheet addresses four of the intellectual goals listed on the syllabus:

1) discern among and evaluate competing claims or approaches to myths or to the problems they explore
2) read critical scholarly literature, identifying and assessing the shape and agenda of a scholarly argument and interrelating it to other texts/readings
3) understand the cultural and individual contingency of myth
4) recognize myths at work and play in your own culture and life

By assessing online resources about myth, you will evaluate what sorts of information web authors choose to include on their websites, and the way they compose and arrange that information to promote a certain understanding (their understanding) of mythology. This exploration of modern uses and presentations of myth reinforces a central course lesson: that myths are not universal or absolute but are told, constructed, mobilized, and meaningful in specific cultural and personal contexts.

Strategies
Please read through the questions before you complete the worksheet, even before you visit the websites. Then spend some time browsing the websites before you begin to fill out the worksheet. Browse thoroughly – go beyond the landing point, please. Do this assignment early
enough that if one of the links does not work (which occasionally happens, though we checked them recently), you can contact us for alternatives.

**Website pair**

a) [http://www.theoi.com/](http://www.theoi.com/)

b) [http://onespiritx.tripod.com/gods10.htm](http://onespiritx.tripod.com/gods10.htm)
Website a

1. Describe: What is the title of this website? Please list it as you would for a bibliography. The Chicago Manual of Style suggests that, when you cite a website, it should follow this format:
   
   Author. “Title.” Last modified date OR date accessed. URL. (5 pts)
   
   

2. Describe: What mythic material does the website (not just the landing page) cover? You need not be specific – an overview will suffice (gods, gods and heroes, texts, women, many cultures, only Greek and Roman, etc.). Please elaborate. (5 pts)

   The website has several narrowed down categories, which you can select to know more about and have a corresponding picture to represent them. These include a Gods and Goddesses category, Titans and Titanesses, Fabulous Creatures, Giants, Heros, Kings and villains, Nymphs, Family Tree of the Greek Gods, Mythology Art, and Mythology Classical Texts. This website is very detailed in the information it gives and also has a lot of cool extra elements to it. Like the popular stories section or the works or art section. All of the characters have an overview of who they are, who their parents are, an encyclopedia overview, and then what myths they appear in.

3. Describe: How is the content of the website (not just the landing page) organized? (e.g. by culture, historical period, character, text, etc.). Is it primarily hierarchical, or are there lateral (side-to-side) connections or some other organizational scheme? (5 pts)

   It is organized by supremacy so the most powerful beings and then going down from there. You can click on each one of those you are taken to a similar looking page that categorizes everything even more specifically. For example if you click on greek gods you are taken to a page that says Olympian gods, titan gods, etc. Then those pages have the specific gods you can read about. On the left side of the home page are more subcategories, which include a Greek myth intro, greek myth bios, and galleries. On the right side of the home page it has a popular pages section which you can choose to read about some of the more popular stories or read about some of the more popular figures of greek mythology.

4. Analyze: What does this organization suggest about the author’s perspective on ancient mythology? How does this organization direct their audience through the material? How effective is that guidance? (10 pts)

   The author shows clearly what he believes people should know by putting the gods and goddesses categories first and then having the less important at the bottom of the page. Also, the short explanation of the website gives the audience of how to navigate through all the information. All the information is very informative and isn’t confusing to read and is highly organized.
5. Describe: What sort of evidence do the authors use to make their points? (ancient texts and/or artworks, dictionaries of mythology, no evidence given, etc.)? (5 pts)

The authors back up their points in detailed citations on the page itself and then there is a very detailed bibliography on a separate page on the website. They site works from Hesiod, Bacchae, the library of history, and several other credible sources. He claimed that what is on the website is

6. Analyze: Who is the target audience for this website? How can you tell? (10 pts)

For people clearly interested in mythology in either a spiritual sense or for people who want to study mythology at a very in deep level. The author calls it a “comprehensive reference guide to the gods,” and claims to have expertly analyzed all the information given in the website.

7. Analyze: What overall argument are the authors making about myth? Put another way, what is the agenda or bias of the website’s creators? (10 pts)

They want to provide the most accurate facts about the gods that is currently possible. Since they analyzed a lot works written by people that lived in ancient Greece and also had a variety of experts that have analyzed that era. They really want to get the point across that the information is 100% accurate.
Website b

1. Describe: What is the title of this website? Please list it as you would for a bibliography. The Chicago Manual of Style suggests that, when you cite a website, it should follow this format:
   Author. “Title.” Last modified date OR date accessed. URL. (5 pts)

2. Describe: What mythic material does the website (not just the landing page) cover? You need not be specific – an overview will suffice (gods, gods and heroes, texts, women, many cultures, only Greek and Roman, etc.). Please elaborate. (5 pts)
   The website has a list of all the minor gods and demi heros and then a separate list of greek myths, legends, and heros. If you click on one it tells you what that god has power over or who they were involved with but that is it.

3. Describe: How is the content of the website (not just the landing page) organized? (e.g. by culture, historical period, character, text, etc.). Is it primarily hierarchical, or are there lateral (side-to-side) connections or some other organizational scheme? (5 pts)
   There is really zero organization other than all of the names are in alphabetical order.

4. Analyze: What does this organization suggest about the author’s perspective on ancient mythology? How does this organization direct their audience through the material? How effective is that guidance? (10 pts)
   They used lots of bright and weird colors and there is a total lack of organization to the website. They author clearly didn’t take a lot of time to make it easy to navigate at all. Also the images on the website have absolutely nothing to do with greek mythology. On the main page they have a lot of weird stuff about this being some sort of religion and they value the practicing of spells and witchcraft.

5. Describe: What sort of evidence do the authors use to make their points? (ancient texts and/or artworks, dictionaries of mythology, no evidence given, etc.)? (5 pts)
   They have no citations for their work; everything on the page was written by the author.

6. Analyze: Who is the target audience for this website? How can you tell? (10 pts)
   People trying to become part of the religion or whatever the author believes in.
7. Analyze: What overall argument are the authors making about myth? Put another way, what is the agenda or bias of the website’s creators? (10 pts)

They are trying to get people to follow their religion through this website.