Mythology Research Paper

As you know, there are many reasons civilizations create myths. Some myths are meant to explain the origins of the world. Others are meant to explain natural occurrences that civilizations are unable to explain, or do not understand. Still more are meant to explain why human beings perform certain actions, do certain things they do that they would not otherwise be able to explain. Many myths are a combination of these types of myth.

For this assignment, you will need to choose a myth and explain its purpose. To do this, you may need to do a little research into the customs, beliefs, and understandings of whatever culture created the myth you are examining.

Your paper should include the following elements:

1. A brief introduction to your myth, the civilization that produced it, and a THESIS statement telling what category of myth your myth MOST falls under \*\*Make sure to define the category into which you place this myth (i.e. what does it mean for a myth to be etiological)
2. Background information on the civilization you are studying
3. A brief (about ¾ of a page) summary of your myth
4. Analysis of why your myth most falls under the category in which you placed it (etiological, creation, or nature) – This section should be the bulk of your paper (2-3 pages)
	1. This must include specific examples from both the myth and from the civilization
5. Brief analysis of how your myth fits into any other categories (again with specific example(s))
6. Conclusion that restates your thesis and sums up your argument

You are welcome to look at myth from any ANCIENT civilization you would like. If you are having difficulty selecting a myth, which you should have by the end of your first day in the library, I would be more than happy to recommend one to you.

This assignment is going to be worth a total of 150 points and will be 3.5-5.5 pages

 10 Points for each day in the library (this includes day 1 HW) – I expect you to be on task, using the time you are provided to do research (30 points)

 10 Points for showing up with TWO copies of a summary of your myth on Tuesday, your second day in the library – one to turn into me and one to hold onto to use throughout the day. This should be TYPED, and you should have TWO copies

 10 Points for your bibliography – you are expected to have at least THREE BOOK or DATABASE sources, properly documented in MLA format (The librarian will go over this)

 100 Points for the actual paper, using the rubric provided to you by Moi ☺