Your Personal Odyssey: Narrative Writing Assignment

In *The Odyssey*, Odysseus discovers who he is as he confronts the many obstacles during his journey back to Ithaca. After each encounter, he learns from his mistakes as well as his victories.

**YOUR ASSIGNMENT:** Now that we have read *The Odyssey*, think about your own personal journey to discovery. What events or people have you encountered that made you who you are today? Write a one-to-two page personal narrative that describes one of these situations.

**DIRECTIONS:**
1. Choose ONE of the prompts below.
2. Write a one-to-two page narrative that describes a personal situation similar to what is mentioned in the prompt. Each narrative should be in the form of a creative story, and each should include an allusion that connects it with the section of *The Odyssey* to which it relates.
3. You will polish this assignment prior to the due date. Your final product should be typed and double-spaced.

**DUE:**

**TOPIC CHOICES:**
Choose ONE. Write a one-to-two page narrative in response. Follow the checklist and the attached rubric.

- Calypso: Who, in the name of love, has held you back and not let you grow? Who was afraid to let you make your own decisions or take control of your own life?
  - OR
  - The Lotus Eaters: What addiction (chocolate, video games, sleep, music...) do you use to self-medicate and escape from your problems? What exactly are you avoiding?
  - OR
  - The Cyclops: Describe a huge obstacle (a person or incident) in your road to discovery that you overcame by cleverly using your head and not just reacting impulsively.
  - OR
  - The Witch Circe: Who or what first appeared to be friendly or good for you (it seduced you), but was really out to get you? Think of something that did not appear to be what it really was until you exposed it!
  - OR
  - King Aeolus: Have your peers ever steered you off course, and how? How did your peers get you into trouble, making you go along for the ride even though you did not agree or know about their actions?
  - OR
  - Tiresias: Has someone warned you about what will happen if you do something and been right? What lessons did you learn from this experience?
  - OR
  - Scylla and Charybdis: When did you have to make a tough decision between two hard choices—neither made you happy, but you were forced to decide which was the lesser of two evils?
  - OR
  - The Swineherd/Argos: Who has always been your faithful friend even when you have deserted him/her for a while?
  - OR
  - Athena: Who is your mentor and guide, that person who cares for you and earns your trust?
  - OR
  - The Evil Suitors: Who/what has always been the enemy? Treated you cruelly? (This should not be mean!!! This can be funny! Homework? Your alarm clock? Be creative!)
YOUR PERSONAL ODYSSEY REQUIREMENTS

Use this as a checklist before you turn in your final product!

_____ I used multiple paragraphs to organize my writing.
_____ I focused on ONE MOMENT in time.
_____ I used DESCRIPTIVE, SPECIFIC DETAILS to SHOW my reader, instead of just telling them.
_____ I used DIALOGUE to help make the situation and the characters realistic.
_____ I checked my SPELLING AND GRAMMAR to make sure it was correct.
_____ I made sure my paper was FORMATTED PROPERLY (according to the example paper).

HOW YOUR NARRATIVE WILL BE SCORED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria Description</th>
<th>In order to earn a full 25 points, you will need to meet the following descriptions in your narrative...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exposition (5 points)</strong></td>
<td>The text creatively engages and interests the reader by quickly showing a well-developed conflict. It includes a clear setting. It includes a clear, well-developed narrator and multiple other developed characters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Narrative Techniques (5 points)</strong></td>
<td>The text uses highly-developed narrative techniques such as engaging dialogue and vivid description to develop experiences, events, and/or characters. An allusion to The Odyssey is clear and appropriately connected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organization and Connections (5 points)</strong></td>
<td>The text clearly and creatively develops the experiences or events (plot) using multiple techniques—such as flashback, foreshadowing, suspense, etc.—to sequence events so that they build on each other to create a well-connected story.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Style and Conventions (5 points)</strong></td>
<td>The text uses very descriptive words and phrases, vivid details and rich sensory language to create a realistic picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters. There are no mechanical errors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conclusion (5 points)</strong></td>
<td>The text has a conclusion that creatively and logically ends the story. The conclusion also includes a thoughtful reflection on the events and experiences described in the story.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>