**English IV AP – The Iliad – Single Combat Warrior – Books III and IV**

Concept: *Single Combat* refers to when two respective champions (one from each side) engage in combat in the *no man’s land* between respective armies. Single combat duels are purported to be substitutes for the clashing of entire armies where both sides agree to abide by the outcome of the duel. The most famous of all single combat engagements is the battle between David and Goliath in *The Bible*. Single Combat is not just a western concept. Famous single combat duels have been depicted in the Hind epics *Mahabharata* and *Ramayana*. It is also featured in the Chinese epic *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*.

Background: In the beginning of Book III of *The Iliad*, Paris and Menelaus engage in single combat. However, Paris is whisked up to Mount Olympus by Aphrodite after he is modestly injured.

Assignment: **Part One**: Heroes! As a society, do we need them? Do they sometimes do more harm than good? Does the reliance on heroes make the average citizen passive in that they rely on heroes to bring about change? Is the modern fixation with superheroes (Batman, Black Panther, Wonder Woman) healthy? Would we be better off to champion the common man? Do we expect too much of *the individual* in today’s society? Do societies work better when *community* is emphasized over *the individual?* **Part Two**: Select a modern day single-combat warrior. A person who a particular nation takes an inordinate pride in… almost to a dangerous level. Write about this person explaining why they could be considered a single combat warrior.

Format:

1 1/2 - 2 Pages

Double-spaced

MLA

2 Paragraphs

**\_\_\_ 20 pts.**