Oedipus:

Coat of Arms Assignment

**Background**: In ancient times, knights and warriors painted their armor and shields as a way of indentifying themselves on the battlefield. Out of this practice arose “heraldry,” a tradition composed of a complex system of symbolism which included shapes, colors, animals, weapons and other objects. Eventually, this practice evolved into the elaborate family crests and mottos of today.

**Assignment:** You will need to create a personal shield which symbolically represents your current identity and values (this should not simply be a recreation of your family’s crest, if you have one).

1. Carefully write your last name at the top of the shield.
2. Your shield should include the following items:
3. The historical meaning of your name (preferably last name)
4. Your family’s current role in society or your identity within your family
5. A personal characteristic (patient, wise, strong)
6. A value you embody
7. Your tragic flaw
8. Under your shield, write a personal motto or creed (a brief statement or saying that sums up your world view, values or ideals)

**Presentation**

1. You must present your shield to the class.
2. Introduce/explain each section of your shield
3. Tell why you chose the symbols, words, pictures, etc.
4. End with your creed/motto and explain how/why it is important to you.
5. B. Other Requirements

* On the back of your shield should be a typed, explanatory summary of the information, symbols, pictures, creed, etc. you depicted on the front.
* Size- no smaller than 11” by 17”