

Custom Coat of Arms Instructions

On the Custom Coat of Arms template sheet, create your own coat of arms. Your design should reflect your personality traits (shy, outgoing, hot-tempered, etc.) as well as but not limited to other things like your personal beliefs (religion, politics, etc.), family heritage (English, Hispanic, Native American, etc.), where you live (wheat, cotton, scissortail bird, etc.), where you were born, experiences, ambitions, passions, hobbies, etc.

Every element you choose as a symbol must be explained in an essay.

Your design should also include the following list of criteria. Refer to the Symbols handout provided to you and covered in class. This should be located in the Literature section of your binder.

- ☐ **Elements:** at least one
- ☐ **Colors:** one primary and two secondary
- ☐ **Shapes:** at least one
- ☐ **Directions:** at least one
- ☐ **Numbers:** a minimum of three numbers should be represented literally or connotatively.
- ☐ **Animal or creature:** at least one animal or creature that is representative of you

Other criteria:

- ☐ Use class time wisely.
- ☐ Neatness.
- ☐ Effort.
- ☐ Creativity.
- ☐ Do NOT use images that are copyrighted or ones for which you do not have permission to use.

Refer to the grading rubric for more specifics.

A shield template has been provided. You may change the shape of the template, as well as add elements around the outside of the shield.

You may refer to the following websites about heralds/coats of arms for inspiration and design ideas; however, use our class handout symbol meanings for elements, colors, shapes, directions, and numbers.

<http://www.internationalheraldry.com/>
[http://www.fleurdelis.com/symbolism ABC.htm#Alisaunder](http://www.fleurdelis.com/symbolism%20ABC.htm#Alisaunder)

More design/symbol suggestions:

Perhaps you come from a family of farmers, so you could use a graphic of a piece of farm equipment. A paintbrush or painter's palette would be a great graphic to represent someone who is an artist. Images such as cotton, wheat, and cactus are examples of a plants or crops that might grow in the particular area where you live. Again, be creative and use symbols that represent you!