

## Arachne and Minerva Assignment

- **Length:** 1-2 pages, types, double spaced
- **Due:** Thursday, Jan. 31

**Topic:** Arachne and Minerva (Athena)

**Instructions:** Write a short paper on the conflict between Arachne and Minerva, using Ovid's account (reproduced in M&L) as the primary source.

**Overview:** This is a short assignment, and the details below are meant to be resources for you, not the exact template into which you must form your answer. Many different approaches and conclusions are possible.

**Consider** some (but probably not all) of the elements below:

- What view of the relationship of gods and humans does Ovid portray in his telling of the story?
- How does Ovid characterize the nature of Minerva? Does it align with other portrayals of the goddess?
- What experiences and/or points of view lead Arachne to take the attitude toward Minerva that she does?
- Does the story unfold inevitably, or does Ovid imply there are other possible outcomes?
- Are there ancient Greek/Roman principles that govern the way this story is told? (Check some of the concept words linked to the glossary.)
- Is there an etiological "hook" to the story? How central is it to the story?
- Is there a lesson that is applicable to human behavior here? What specific elements of the tale support it?

**Include:**

- an opening sentence to lead me in to the narrative with a sense of your point of view
- at least one quote that you use to illustrate a point
- a conclusion that gives me an overall perspective on the material you've treated, and supports and/or goes beyond your opening.

**Remember:**

- Ovid is the author of this tale so we are seeing primarily what he wants us to - we are interpreting a work of literature in the light of cultural ideas.
- Arachne and Minerva are not real people (entities). They are literary (and cultural) constructs, and different authors may present them differently.

**Resources:**

The Important Information page has various tips about explaining quotes, exploiting details of mythic narratives to support your points, and miscellaneous writing tips you may find helpful.

**And also:** By now the instructions are almost as long as your paper is supposed to be. Oh, well.