

SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT: ODYSSEY FOOD TRUCK



Photo: <http://www.foodtruckcarnival.com/food-trucks.html>

According to Merriam-Webster online, a food truck is “a large wheeled vehicle from which food is sold that typically contains cooking facilities where the food is prepared.” In the United States, food trucks have become ubiquitous—and whether it's The Fat Shallot in Chicago, Basic Kneads Pizza in Denver, The Butter Truck in Philadelphia, or The Cinnamon Snail in New York City, these mobile eateries run the gamut from greasy to gourmet. A food truck gives a chef a chance to show a lot of personality and creativity. For this project, you are going to create a food truck related to *The Odyssey*. You will have two options (see below).

Option 1: You will imagine that one character from *The Odyssey* has decided to leave everything behind and take a food truck out on the road. You will design the truck from the perspective of your character, making appearance, theme, staffing and menu choices based on all you have learned about him or her in the text.

Option 2: You will be the creator of the truck, and you will imagine you are taking it to a world literary conference. Famous authors, publishers, journalists, English teachers and English students will be eating at the conference, and your truck will represent our text in every possible way. You will make your choices of appearance, theme, and menu based carefully on elements from the text.

Regardless of the option you choose, your final project will include:

- a **Poster** of your food truck, showing title and decorations (to be explained in your paper);
- a **Menu** for your food truck, with at least five listed items (to be explained in your paper);
- a **Staff Listing** including names, roles, and duties (to be further explained in your paper)

PLUS any two of the following optional elements:

- **Food Samples:** If you enjoy cooking, this could be a fun option for you. You can bring in samples of one or two of your menu items to share with your classmates.
- **Food Truck Playlist:** Print out the playlist to show, but also feel free to bring in a music player. If lots of people choose this option, we can take turns playing from the playlists during the festival.
- **Facebook Page, IG Feed, or other social media campaign items:** Design a Facebook, IG Feed, or other social media site for your truck and bring a printout of it to class. Or just create a large poster showing the elements that would be on such a page online.
- **Food server uniform** (designs for shirts, hats, etc.): If you choose this option, you can either bring in drawings of what would be worn, or actually design a uniform using real clothes and fabric markers or iron-on elements.
- **Serving ware items:** If your food truck is going to have thematic plates, cups, napkins, utensils, etc. you can bring in drawings of them or create actual examples for display.



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- **Ideas of your own** (just run them by me first): You'll probably think of other fun details you can add to your food truck presentation, based on our text. Check in with me for approval so you can be sure they can count as your additional elements.

AND an explanatory **Paper**. This paper, of at least two typed pages, should include textual analysis to explain all your key decisions. Remember that every detail relating to your food truck should stem from your understanding of the text, including the menu and poster and whichever additional elements you choose from the list below.



Photo: <https://www.moneycrashers.com/how-to-start-food-truck-business-plan/>

Other Information:

- You can work in groups of up to four people (for exceptions, see me first)
- You will have today to form groups and start brainstorming
- On **Monday, September 30**, you will take the multiple-choice portion of the assessment.
- From Tuesday (Oct 1) through Thursday (Oct 3), you will have the entire class period to work. I will provide poster paper for the truck poster, but you will be responsible for bringing any other supplies that you need.
- Your food truck project is due **Friday, October 4**. You must have all the elements describe above, **including** a printed copy of your paper.

Brainstorming Tips:

There are many ways to tie food to a theme. Imagine Harry Potter opened an ice cream truck and created a flavor personalized to everyone he knew. Imagine Katniss Everdeen created a food truck for the capital and created a dish representing each district, all secretly containing a bit of poison as part of the war between the capital and the rebellion. Imagine Henry David Thoreau created a Back-to-Nature food truck, in which every menu item was made from plants personally picked by him on his walks, and served on plates with inspirational nature quotations on them. You get the idea. As you think about the truck you are going to design, get together with your group members and discuss the following questions. Remember, it is very important to have a clear intention with what you choose, an intention that connects to the character and/or to *The Odyssey*.

- Start with the type of food. What general type of food will your food truck be serving? Why?
- Consider a name for this mobile business. Sketch the name/logo and the design elements of the truck (see blank truck template).
- What are some interesting big-picture ways you can connect the truck to the text or the character? List three ideas below.
- Who will be staffing your food truck? If you are designing a food truck for a character, choose other characters they know and provide your reasons for each choice. If you are designing a food truck around the novel overall, choose characters that the food truck staff will represent, and again, provide your reasons for each choice.

Chef:

Why?

Server:

Why?

Social Media/Marketing Coordinator:

Why?

- What five items will you be serving and why? Remember, explanation is key!
- What other details can you use to show your understanding of the character or text? These could include the type of serving ware the server will use, music the truck might play, the marketing strategies the business will employ, the hours of the day the truck will serve food, etc. *Be creative!*

