

## Medieval Heraldry Assignment

### Overview:

- Students will create a contemporary coat of arms for themselves or their family.
- We will research traditional heraldry in the middle ages and use structured note taking and graphic organizers to record what we learn.
- We will write a paragraph explaining the symbols, images and shapes in the coat of arms and how they are significant to us.

### Guiding Questions:

1. What is *heraldry*?
2. What are *common elements* of heraldry in the Middle Ages?
3. How are *symbols* traditionally used in heraldry?
5. How can *color* be used symbolically?

### Outline:

1. Divide the shield into **six parts**. In each part you will symbolically depict one of the following:
  1. Your greatest success so far
  2. What you value most in life at this point
  3. Your (highest) goal in life (career, well-being, travel, etc.)
  4. Your goal for humankind
  5. A sport, hobby, or talent you enjoy/have
  6. An aspect of your family (traditions, name, religion, background)

...use traditional clipart, or draw a modern depiction. Colour. Keep in mind the symbolism of colour for your coat of arms' background.

2. At the bottom, write your "**motto**" (meaningful statement) for your life. You may choose to use your family's historical motto, if you have one, but translate it in your paragraph write-up.
3. Use a piece of coloured construction paper to display your coat of arms. Make sure it is cut out. Neatness, presentation, and creativity count.
4. Attach a **paragraph** explanation for all of the six sections symbolically depicted on the shield, and explain why you chose your "motto for life". Include why you chose particular colours. This paragraph must be word processed and edited.



Quality Production - 10 pts

Design - 10 pts

Content - 10 pts

Coat of Arms Written Explanation - 20 pts

**Due Date-**

# HERALDRY

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**H**eraldry was first created in order to help tell who was who beneath layers of armor. After all, you wouldn't want to accidentally kill a knight that was really your neighbor. Emblems of geometric shapes as well as the more recognizable birds, beasts and symbols were then used to decorate shields. The shield not only offered protection, but identification as well. The shield offers a big, flat surface— perfect for painting a design on. Shields, then, became the medieval version of a driver's license. Though you could not see a knight's face, it was possible to tell the morals



and the way his family acts through identifying the colors and symbols on his shield. Heraldry fully developed not on the battlefield but within the tournaments. The tournaments were like present-day ESPN, where the nobility (or athletes, in our case) competed. Since the peasantry who watched these "games" were unable to read the scoreboards like sports fans do in present-day games, heraldry was developed to identify knights based on their shield design.

## COLORS

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<b>GOLD</b>	• Wealthy	Generous	
<b>SILVER (WHITE)</b>	• Peaceful	Pure	
<b>BLUE</b>	• Truthful	Loyal	
<b>Green</b>	• Wisdom	Joy	Hope
<b>Red</b>	• Militant	Fortitude	Passionate
<b>Black</b>	• Secretive	Grief	
<b>Purple</b>	• Royal	Dignified	

