

# The Odyssey The Effects of War

## 1. Question & Research Task

Odysseus has returned from Troy, defeated the suitors, reunited with Penelope, and punished his household's unfaithful servants.

Now what?

Like many other soldiers returning from a long deployment, Odysseus will have to readjust to civilian life.

What are the effects of deployment and combat on soldiers and civilians?

**In this Slam Dunk, you will conduct brief, focused research to respond to the inquiry question:**

**How do individuals overcome and endure after facing adversity?**



Click the image above to play a video clip summarizing the homecoming of Odysseus.

Image Source: Discovery Education, by subscription.

## 2. Information Sources

**Choose several of the information sources linked here to complete the Student Activity on Slide 3.**

What are the effects of combat and extended deployments on soldiers and civilians? What challenges do veterans face when reentering society after war? How can veterans and their families best face the uncertainties of post-deployment?

### Information sources:

- [What are the biggest problems facing veterans returning home from conflict?](#)
- [How wars impacted veterans' mental health and care](#)
- [US Dept. of Veteran Affairs: PTSD](#)
- [Signs of PTSD in Military Service Members](#)
- [Drug Abuse & the Military](#)
- [Military Sexual Trauma](#)
- [Traumatic Brain Injury \(TBI\)](#)



Click the image above to view a film clip about a doctor investigating methods to erase traumatic memories.  
Image Source: Discovery Education, by subscription.

### 3. Student Activity

Review the resources on [slide 2](#) to discover issues that are common to soldiers returning from deployment or combat.

Use this [organizer](#) to record your findings. This information will assist you in completing the next step of the task.



Odysseus slaying the suitors, detail of a red-figure skyphos from Tarquinii, c. 450 *bc*; in the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin, Ger.  
Image Source: Britannica.com

## 4. Assessment Activity

[1](#)[2](#)[3](#)[4](#)[5](#)[6](#)[Next](#)

How do individuals overcome and endure after facing adversity?

Using the information collected on your organizer, compare the actions of Odysseus upon his return with those of more contemporary (current) soldiers:

**What challenges might Odysseus have to overcome to readjust to everyday life?**

Make sure to include details that clearly communicate the challenges that both Odysseus and contemporary soldiers might face after returning home from war.

Your entry will be scored using this [rubric](#) or another method as specified by your teacher.



Odysseus and Penelope by Johann Heinrich Wilhelm Tischbein  
Image Source: Wikimedia Commons



## 5. Enrichment Activities



A Minnesota soldier returns home from Iraq in 2007.  
Image Source: Wikimedia Commons

Consider how Penelope will have to readjust to Odysseus's return.

Review the following resources:

- [Reintegration](#)
- [Tips for Reintegration](#)
- [Veterans Administration's Guide for Families](#)

Then compose a journal entry or blog entry from the perspective of Penelope that describes the challenges that she might face when Odysseus returns home from his travels.

# 6. Teacher Resources

<a href="#">1</a>	<a href="#">2</a>	<a href="#">3</a>	<a href="#">4</a>	<a href="#">5</a>	<a href="#">6</a>
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## Learning Standards Alignment

### Content Learning Standards

#### [Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy](#)

Reading: 1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

Writing: 7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

#### [AASL Standards Framework for Learners](#)

Inquire: Build new knowledge by inquiring, thinking critically, identifying problems, and developing strategies for solving problems.

Think: Learners display curiosity and initiative by: I.A.2 Recalling prior and background knowledge as context for new meaning.

Create: Learners engage with new knowledge by following a process that includes: I.B.1 Using evidence to investigate questions. I.B.3 Generating products that illustrate learning.

Share: Learners adapt, communicate, and exchange learning products with others in a cycle that includes: I.C.1 Interacting with content presented by others.

Grow: Learners participate in an ongoing inquiry-based process by: I.D.2 Engaging in sustained inquiry.

#### [P21 Framework: 21st Century Student Outcomes](#)

**3. Information, Media & Technology Skills: Information Literacy:** Access information efficiently and effectively; Use information accurately and creatively for the issue or problem at hand.

**ICT Literacy:** Use technology as a tool to research, organize, evaluate and communicate information.

## Grade 9 Unit 2

**Objective:** Students will conduct brief, focused research in order to compare Odysseus' struggles to overcome adversity after war to those of modern soldiers.

**Time Frame: One 90-minute lesson**

### Differentiation strategies for this lesson:

- Have students use learning supports provided in BCPS Digital Content found in the [Apps Portal](#). Refer to [Digital Content Snapshot/Support pages](#) as needed.

### Notes to the teacher:

- Collaborate with your school library media specialist to implement this lesson.
- Provide students with login information as needed to authenticate BCPS Digital Content. Login information is on the **BCPS Digital Content** page in the [Apps Portal](#)
- Consider assigning organizers to students as a OneDrive Assignment using the [Schoolology Assignment App](#).
- Headphones/speakers will be necessary for the video segments in this module.
- Please preview segments as some veterans' stories may be intense for some students.