

## Design Your Coat of Arms

Coats of Arms date to the early Middle Ages. In the early twelfth century, helmets and other armor began making it difficult to tell armed warriors apart. The solution was for each knight or soldier to paint something personal on their shield. These designs were important in battle, but they also functioned like team uniforms when knights met in tournaments. Over time, shield emblem designs became enduring symbols of their owners, and of their owners' families.

**Design a coat of arms** that uses colors, patterns, and symbols that represent you. The shield that you create should be a reflection of your values, traits, beliefs, interests, ambitions, and self identity. The coat of arms may be designed by free hand, using a template, or the computer.

Your coat of arms should have the following elements:

1. Motto written above the shield
  - a. The motto should be a short, inspirational sentence that should not just reflect who you are, but the kind of person you want to be, perhaps alluding to hopes and dreams.
2. The Shield
  - a. Place symbols that represent or identify
    - i. <http://www.fleurdelis.com/symbolism.htm>
    - ii. <http://www.4crests.com/coatofarsym.html>
    - iii. <http://heraldry.ws/info/article05.html>
    - iv. <http://www.irishsurnames.com/heraldiccharges.htm>
  - b. Color
    - i. Color has significant meaning, see links above.
  - c. Your name underneath the shield
  - d. List four values that are important to you underneath your name.
    - i. Here is a list of over 400 values!
      1. <http://www.stevpavlina.com/articles/list-of-values.htm>
3. Reflection
  - a. On the back of your coat of arms page, reflect and explain why you chose the symbols and colors that you did. What do they mean to you? How and why do you identify with them?

Project Value (20 points)

1. Coat of arms (10 points)
  - a. Inclusion of all elements
  - b. Neatness & creativity
2. Reflection (10 points)
  - a. Clear explanation of symbol & color choice.
  - b. Well written using the proper structure and conventions.

RESOURCES

<http://karenswhimsy.com/coat-of-arms-template.shtm>