Beowulf wasn’t shy about proclaiming his greatness to himself, the Danes and to posterity. Boasting was part of making a name for himself and perhaps a way of escaping the pessimistic and fatalistic world around him. Reread the sections where Beowulf appears before Hrothgar and unabashedly lets us know how amazing, how incredible he is. What may appear vain and egotistical was really a necessary part of Anglo-Saxon society. Hrothgar and the Danes would have thought less of Beowulf if he HADN’T boasted about where he came from, who his family was and the great deeds of his youth.

Great epic heroes were models for those who read about them to follow and emulate. Your job is to emulate Beowulf’s great self-esteem. You are to write and perform your own personal boast in your best Anglo-Saxon style. The learning goals are to understand the rigors of Anglo-Saxon poetry and to master the state speaking standards.

The key is, of course, that Beowulf did all the things he said. He did not make empty boasts. You can’t invent running for Congress or winning an Academy Award, but you can exaggerate and make the ordinary sound fantastic. Beowulf spoke with élan, panache, and joie de vivre. So should you. Brag about who you are, who your family is, who your friends are, what you have done and don’t forget to remind us that you are the best thing! Remember that your talents include academics, sports, music, drama, art, making friends, influencing people, and being a loyal family member. If you run out of ideas, think about the things you will put on your job, college and scholarship applications.

Your BOAST must have the following style requirements

* At least 20 lines of approximate **iambic tetrameter** (4 beats [8 syllables] per line)

*In poetry, a four beat line has eight syllables, four soft beats and four hard ones. If the line is iambic, the hard beats go second, da DUM.
A four beat line in iambic tetrameter (4-beat) is marked like this:*\_ / \_ / \_ / \_ /
*It sounds like this: a CLOCK is JUST a FACE of HANDS*.

* A caesura in most lines – write balanced lines!
* At least two examples of alliteration (3 consecutive sounds)
* **No end rhyme!**
* At least one kenning of your own making
* Elevated language (interesting vocabulary and expression)

Written Criteria:

* Caesuras (majority of boast)
* Alliteration (2 examples each with 3 words in close proximity)
* Kenning (at least 1)
* 20 lines minimum
* Elevated Language (4 examples)
* Form, iambic tetrameter
* Clear Key for Review

Presentation Criteria:

* Eye Contact
* Confidence
* Articulation
* Fluency
* Volume
* Swagger
1. This will be an EXTRA CREDIT assignment worth up to 10 points.
2. Submit to tii.com by Agenda Due Date – No late submissions will be accepted.
3. Make sure that your boast is done correctly with all written components. This will be worth up to 5 points.
4. You may PRESENT on your Agenda Due Date – for up to an additional 5 points.