

# English 9: Final Essay Prompts, Semester One

**Directions:** After reading through all of them carefully, choose the *two* prompts you think you can answer best. For each prompt write a three paragraph response the following: an intro paragraph that ends with a thesis, one body paragraph with two “chunks” (units of concrete detail and two sentences of commentary), and a brief concluding paragraph that connects the topic to life in general and/or Christian worldview. Please label the options you choose on your submitted paper. **You must submit this completed paper to the portal in turnitin.com no later than the end of your final testing period.**

**Option One- Weakness:** Both Gilgamesh and Ulysses are defined as heroes in the ancient Greek sense; they both have one outstanding characteristic. For Gilgamesh, this is strength, for Ulysses, it’s cunning. What are their weaknesses and how do these weaknesses impact the people around them?

**Option Two- Character Arc:** We have discussed the different types of characterization as they pertain to both epics. Gilgamesh could be classified as a “round” and “dynamic” character, whereas Ulysses, while also “round” would be considered “static”. In what ways does Gilgamesh change, and why does Ulysses fail to do so?

**Option Three- Women:** While not the heroes of these tales, women play an important role in both Gilgamesh and The Odyssey. Describe the role that women play in these epics. Are they similar or do they provide a contrasting view of women?

**Option Four- Justice:** When people are wronged, they feel a need to exact justice. In Gilgamesh, the people of Uruk seek justice against a heartless king. In The Odyssey, Ulysses pursues justice from the suitors that have taken over his home. What are the differences both in how they attempt to get justice and how effective are they in doing so?

**Option Five- Friendship:** A common theme in epics is the importance of friendships for the protagonists. How is friendship treated in Gilgamesh and the Odyssey? What effects do these close relationships have on the main character as well as the plot?