

## ***Epic of Gilgamesh Reflection Essay***

1. Due: Tuesday, September 23, 2015
2. 1½ - 2 page paper, typed and double spaced. Name, date, class period in the top left corner, and give your paper a title. ***Do not*** double space between your title and the first paragraph.
3. Choose ***one*** of the following questions to answer:
  - a. Compare and contrast the flood accounts of Genesis and *Epic of Gilgamesh*, focusing on what these accounts teach us about Christianity and the Sumerian religion and how these stories reflect a common human experience
  - b. How would you characterize the relationship between Gilgamesh and Enkidu- is it ultimately beneficial or destructive for both characters? Considering that this text is centered on a male friendship, and based on what you know of the Mesopotamians, why do you think this text is largely devoid of positive female characters?
  - c. Compare and contrast the nature of Sumerian gods as revealed in *Gilgamesh* and discussed in history class, to the nature of God as revealed in the Bible
  - d. What does a true hero mean and why do we look up to them? Also evaluate whether or not Gilgamesh is a true hero and explain how he represents the Mesopotamian culture's viewpoint of the king.
  - e. "There is no permanence. Do we build a house to stand forever, do we seal a contract to hold for all time? (pg 34). How does this quote from *Gilgamesh* show the problem of mankind apart from Jesus Christ? Connect Sumerian religious beliefs in your analysis
  - f. How do we see universal/objective truth in *Gilgamesh*? How is this countered with subjective truth, from the culture of the Sumerians, throughout the story?
4. This paper is about *analysis*. **Do not just recap** what we read and discussed in class. ***Use*** the book and discussion notes to help you **think deeper** about the question you chose.
5. You must use at least ***3 quotes*** from the text to support your answer, and you must cite the page where you found the quote.
  - a. For example, "When the gods created man they allotted to him death, but life they retained in their own keeping" (31).