# Pinson / English 250 GEC Literary Analysis Paper

# Comparison and Contrast

Having completed the class activities, reading assignments, and writing assignments, the World Literature student will be able to produce textual analysis in a well developed, well organized, and properly cited essay that compares and contrasts the development of a key theme or characters in two works from the literature discussed this semester (ie. Joseph Story, The Epic of Gilgamesh, The Illiad, The Epic of Son-Jara).

# Requirements and Details:

1. The length is 3 pp. typed and double-spaced at a minimum. I will not grade papers that do not meet the minimum page requirement.
2. The due date is **April 28, 2021, by 11:59 p.m.**
3. Please note that this paper is solely a close reading paper. No research is required.
4. You will type your paper in a Word document and save it. Then you should upload it to our BB course site

# Directions:

1. Write a comparison and contrast paper in which you compare and contrast two characters, two works, or two depictions of the same theme.
2. Prompts are given below for you to choose from.
3. Focus your topic carefully by stating a clear, well-defined thesis in the first paragraph.
4. Support your thesis throughout the paper with logically organized and well-developed paragraphs.
5. Select appropriate passages as evidence and use those passages to support your argument.
6. Do not summarize the plot(s) but refer instead to specific events for support. Assume that your reader has read the work(s).

# Here are examples of topics from which you can choose:

1. Compare and/or contrast two protagonists from two different works. Why/How are they different? How does their culture influence their differences? Do the characters develop over time? Or do they stay the same? If they change, what is the catalyst behind the change? Are the changes similar?

2. Compare and/or contrast the role of women in two epics.

3. Compare and contrast two female characters. It is often considered “common knowledge” that women play very little part in heroic epics. For example, writean essay in which you compare one major female character in *Gilgamesh* (Shamhat, perhaps?) with the depiction of women in another epic we have read (Sukulan Konde, perhaps). If there is a major female character in the second work you choose, you should discuss her role and how she is central to the epic. (What does the way the male character interacts with the female you are discussing tell us about perceptions about her character?

4. Compare and contrast two of the heroes we have been discussing this semester. Your paper should answer the following questions: what are the cultural values that the virtues of each hero represents? In what ways does each hero uphold these values? In what ways might the hero be viewed as failing to uphold these values, if you think that hero does ever fail? Which of the two heroes is more “heroic” in terms of living up to the heroic virtues expected of him within the context of the work? (Note that this is not asking whether or not you like the hero so much as whether or not the hero lives up to the values of his society successfully.) One possible approach to this topic might be to use Gilgamesh, who, perhaps shows little control with one of our other heroes, such as Achilles. Your conclusion might discuss which of the two heroes, if any, grows the most as a character and why you think so.

Your job as you write this paper is not simply to answer the questions I list under each topic. The questions are meant simply to get you thinking about the topic.

Sandars, N. K., Trans. *The Epic of Gilgamesh*. London: Penguin, 1960.

Harris, Rivkah. “Images of Women in The Gilgamesh Epic.” *The Epic of Gilgamesh: A Norton Critical Edition*. Trans. Benjamin R. Foster. New York: Norton, 2001. 207-218.

Adapted from English 250-45 (Janice Hawes)