



## Essay #1 Assignment Sheet

### Topic:

Focus your efforts for this essay on ONE stage of the hero cycle: Departure, Initiation, or Return. Write an essay in which you support or oppose the assertion that we can identify features of your stage of the hero cycle in the last part of *Gilgamesh* (from Tablet VIII – Tablet XI or from after Enkidu dies to the end of the story pp. 132-151).

**Recommended:** I strongly recommend that you switch over to the N.K. Sanders translation. It is better and has more support. After re-reading the last half of the story, then determine if you will write on Departure, Initiation, or Return and then focus on the Sanders text:

[http://www.rosemike.net/quotes/misc/epic\\_gil.pdf](http://www.rosemike.net/quotes/misc/epic_gil.pdf) (part 4-7 pp. 21-34. Perhaps you could use both translations?)

### Requirements:

The essay should be double-spaced, typed or word processed, 1" margins and documented using MLA format and documentation style (document both the primary text (*Gilgamesh*) and our secondary text (*Hero*)). The length should be 750-1250 words (roughly 3-5 pages). This is expected to be a "critical essay" which makes a clear point and supports it by using evidence from the text. Essays that fall into plot summary will receive no high grade than a 70.

**Sources:** For this essay, you only need to use Joseph Campbell's Hero With A Thousand Face and the *Gilgamesh* text. *I do not want you to do research beyond our two texts.*

### Due Dates:

First Draft due 9/18/17

Final Draft due 9/20/17

## Reminder about policies affecting essays:

### Late Drafts of Out-of-Class Essays:

The essay must be typed to be considered on time. Essays are due at the beginning of class on 9/18. If the essay is late it loses 10 points (see above), and you will have one week to complete the essay or the grade will be a zero. Late first drafts also lose -5 points.

**Minimum essay requirements:** Not meeting the minimum requirements for length and sources will result in an essay with a grade of no higher than a 70.

### Resources and Recommendations for Working on the Essay

1. Re-read the last part of Gilgamesh from the death of Enkidu to the death of Gilgamesh (at the very least look at the Death of Gilgamesh which is included in the Sanders translation but is left out of ours). I recommend that you read the Sanders translation of the story. Keep in mind the division points we discussed in class about where we can find the transition points between departure, initiation, or return in this portion of the text.
2. Pick which phase of the hero cycle and the story of Gilgamesh you will write on. Be very clear about the boundaries for the phases in Gilgamesh.
3. Re-read, re-skim the phase you have selected to write on (for instance, re-read the Initiation phase)
4. Then on scratch pieces of papers start charting out connections between Campbell and Gilgamesh.  
--NOTE: You may not find every part of each phase in our story. For instance, I don't think you can say Gilgamesh has a refusal of the call section.  
--ALSO: You don't need to chart out in encyclopedic fashion every link between the two. Just enough to support your claim that a connection exists (or does not exist).
5. Structure your paper around Campbell's parts of the phases. For instance, if you were writing on Departure you would have a paragraph or section on The Call to Adventure, Supernatural Aid, and Threshold Guardian. You want to develop at least three parts of each phase that can be seen in Gilgamesh (four is better if possible).
6. Think of this essay as a kind of matching game. Find key quotes characterizing/defining a part of the hero cycle (e.g. Call to Adventure) and then match them to quotes in Gilgamesh. Your goal is to explain and interpret how the quote from Gilgamesh fits as an instance of Campbell's hero cycle.
7. Check out my Writing Guide on Critical Essays <http://www.lirvin.net/WGuides/critical.htm> . Also, you will find a lot more resources for writing essays at my Writing Guides site: <http://www.lirvin.net/WGuides/default.htm>
8. After you have done some charting out to match Campbell to Gilgamesh, write a first draft that follows a clear structure and focuses on content and development of support (without worrying about grammar/punctuation/documentation or even having full support at this point.)