

Core D Ancient Lit | Compare and Contrast Essay

Due Dates:

Wed, March 23 rd	Thesis (emailed) and T-Chart or Venn Diagram (submitted in-class)
Wed, March 30 th	Full-Sentence Outline with Works Cited
Mon, April 11 th	Final Draft with Works Cited <i>including Tii submission</i>

Requirements:

- 1400-1700 words in length
- Use at least 2 sources, including a source outside of our literary texts
- MLA format (size 12, Times New Roman, double spaced, in-text citations, works cited page, etc)

Prompts to Consider:

- Throughout the year, we have examined many types of literary heroes and what the world believes about heroism. But what does the Bible say about heroism? What makes a “hero” in God’s view of the world? When considering our texts, what traits, qualities, and morals are valued by man vs. God? What behavior is expected by worldly heroes vs. godly heroes? What results from living a heroic life under each “value” system, including outcomes for the development of the hero himself and outcomes for the people impacted by the hero?
- Although some argue that medieval chivalry has died, many believe that its ideals still exist in the modern world. Using our 2nd Semester texts and the chivalric code, compare and contrast how men and women lived out chivalry in the Middle Ages compared to now. Which ideals have carried forward and which no longer exist? What are some examples of chivalry today and how do they impact society?
- While we cannot know for sure, scholars believe that up to 700 years passed between the writing of *Beowulf* and *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. During that time, Christianity had spread and taken root throughout all of medieval Europe. Using these texts, compare and contrast the inclusion of biblical influence in storytelling. How do the biblical references, allusions, and symbols add meaning to the story? Where and how do you continue to see the influence of paganism in these tales? Do you see a change in how Christianity and/or the Bible are woven into the fabric of the stories and, if so, how has it changed?
- Compare the idea of valor in Sir Gawain (the character) versus one of the warriors in *Beowulf* (including Beowulf himself)? What does it mean to be a warrior in each of the stories? How are the ideas of courage similar and different in each story? Has the idea of bravery, courage, and leadership changed between these two texts?

Keep in mind while writing:

- **Be intentional with word choices:** Choose specific words that communicate purposefully. Avoid weak or passive verbs.
- **Create smooth transitions:** Use transitions to create flow from point to point. Connect topic sentences to the thesis. Connect assertions to the topic sentences.
- **Integrate quotes well:** Introduce each quote, paraphrase or summary so that the evidence keeps your voice and proves your point. Do not repeat the evidence in your assertion or commentary, thereby nullifying the purpose of the evidence. Never allow a quotation to stand as its own sentence.
- **Use literary present tense:** Recount textual evidence from literature in the present tense.

Reminders:

- Attach your graded diagram and outline, along with the rubric, when submitting the final draft
- Turn the essay in to Turn-It In before class on April 11th

Name: _____

Idea 1	Similarities	Idea 2

Name: _____

