

CLAS109 • ESSAY 02 • PROMPTS & GUIDELINES • DRAFT 16 OCT @23h59 • FINAL 23 OCT @23h59

FOCUS on the following texts: *Hymn to Aphrodite*, *Descent of Ishtar*, *Aeschylus Eumenides*, *Cosmogonies of Esna*, *Hymn to Hermes*, *Hymn to Thoth*, *Hymn to Apollo*, *Xenophon Ephesian Tale*, *Euripides Bacchae*, *Hymn to Dionysus*, *Catullus Attis*

STRUCTURALISM

Compare the ancient Greek tales to each other and to Egyptian, Near Eastern and Roman tales. How can we explain their similarities (and differences)? How do they explain structural oppositions, e.g. between male & female, lust & moderation; rational & irrational? How are their similarities important?

RITES OF PASSAGE

Compare the ancient Greek tales to each other and to Egyptian, Near Eastern and Roman tales. How can we explain their similarities (and differences)? How do they explain age grade transitions – from birth to infancy (1st week), from infant to child (ca.7 age of reason), from child to adolescent (ca.14 puberty), from child to adult (ca.21) and/or from maiden to wife to mother? How are their similarities important?

OPEN

Compare ancient texts of your choice (see me for approval). How can we explain their similarities (and differences)? How are their similarities important?

BE CLEAR • BE BRIEF • BE SPECIFIC — 750-word limit

- make your points clearly, concretely and succinctly
- your first paragraph should be just a few sentences long and should state your thesis
- use a spell checker, but look for typing errors, two

ORGANIZE BY TOPIC • DEMONSTRATE THE DEPTH OF YOUR UNDERSTANDING

- resist the temptation to organize your paper by author or by chapter:

NOT paragraph 1: Apollodorus says....

NOT paragraph 2: Genesis says...
etc.

- instead, organize by topic:

paragraph 1: The foundation saga of... paragraph 2:

Alphabetic literacy held...
etc.

CITATION FORMAT

primary

abbr. auth. [titl.] book. chapter

use ancient primary sources OFTEN – e.g. Gen 9:1-2, Apollod.1.7.2, etc.

secondary (parenthetical *Chicago Manual of Style* author-date system)

use NO MODERN secondary sources for this essay! No internet sources!

CITE OFTEN • DEMONSTRATE YOUR COMMAND OF THE ANCIENT SOURCES

Cite ancient primary sources often — any and all assigned primary sources. You should NOT refer to secondary sources for this essay.

- cite in parentheses EVERY TIME you QUOTE or SUMMARIZE, for example:

The man chosen by YHWH built a box, or ark, “covered inside and out with pitch (Gen 9.7).

note that the author or book title is dropped when used in the sentence or cited in sequence

- you can gain credit for breadth of reading by using “; see also” (when the following citation proves the exact same point) or by using “; cf.” (meaning “compare,” when the following citation makes a similar point) which allows you to efficiently cite more than one source without repeating yourself, for example:

Egyptian sources called the dome of the sky Nut: P“quote” (*Oec.*II.24; see also *Hdt.*III.21, *Xen.Hel.*I.35).

THE RULES

Basic Principles of Composition and Usage

VOICE

Use the active voice.

(Hacker 2008:3 no.2; Strunk and White 2000: no.14; Orwell 1946: no.4)

TENSE

Use the past tense.

(Hacker 2008:9, no.5b; Strunk and White 2000: no.21)

N.B. Dead authors speak in the past tense, although their texts may speak in the present.

SPECIFICITY

Use definite, specific, concrete language.

(Strunk and White 2000: no.16)

BREVITY

Use shorter words; omit needless words.

(Hacker 2008:243, no.1; Strunk and White 2000: no.17; Orwell 1946: no.243)

CLARITY

Use everyday words before foreign phrases, jargon, metaphors, and figurative language.

(Hacker 2008:164-19, no.9; Strunk and White 2000:76-79; Orwell 1946: no.1, 5)

ORGANIZATION

Choose a suitable design and hold to it; compose in paragraphs.

(Hacker 2008:198-199, no.39; Strunk and White 2000: no.12-13)

FLEXIBILITY

Break any of these rules sooner than say anything outright barbarous.

(Orwell 1946: no.6)

N.B. This concession in no way weakens the rules cited above.

D. Hacker. 2008. *A Pocket Style Manual* (5th edition). Bedford/St. Martins.

G. Orwell. 1946. Politics and the English Language. *Horizon* 13.76: 252-265.

W. Strunk and E. B. White. 2008. *Elements of Style* (50th Anniversary Edition). Longman.