**First Assignment: Short Essay**

**(20% of final grade, to be submitted via Canvas by the deadline)**

All of the writers whom we read in this course uses language in special and impactful ways. Each of their works deserves, therefore, to be read carefully. Close reading is one of the skills emphasized in this class, as it is a valuable professional skill, and these works are worthy of such attention.

For this assignment, please select a single brief passage (not more than 200 words) from one of the works from *Gilgamesh* through Dante.

This essay should be brief (600-700 words, excluding quotations). It should express your personal opinions, but it should also be well argued, analytical, and refer to specific details in the text. If you need a few extra words, we will be happy to read an extra paragraph, but please do not substantially exceed the word limit. Many professional documents require concision and following instructions, so please abide by the suggested length.

You have been introduced to the 5-Step LAD process and have been using it for your journals. You should also use it to help you design and prepare for writing your essay. Please remember that the 5 steps are a **pre-writing** process, and are separate from the essay itself.

You must submit two things (combined into a single document):

1. Your essay of 600-700 words (on which your score will be based)
2. Your rough notes for the LAD (unscored but they will demonstrate your process)

All essays will be scored out of 20 points according to the attached rubric which is based on the LAD. Please remember that 10 of the 20 points will be assigned for analysis and argument.

Your essay should be typed in a compact 12-point font like Times, have one-inch margins, and be double-spaced. Since you are sharing your opinions, please feel free to use the first person “I” if appropriate, but please remember to explain the logical basis for your conclusions. Please give your essay a title. Memorable titles catch your reader’s attention and they are great fun to write.

The use of secondary sources is discouraged. Please tell us what **you** think and why. The essay will be evaluated based on your evidence and argument not on the use of outside sources. The assignment must be entirely your own work.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me and/or your TA about them. Enjoy yourselves and we look forward to reading your ideas!