Roots of World Literature:

1. As you read the selections, use the Roots of World Literature questions that man sought to answer, as your driving questions. You are looking for evidence of the approaches toward, and answers to the questions, as humanity interpreted them 4000 years ago.

Write the questions:

1. Read the selections, and identify instances where the questions are explored, and perhaps answered. Consider the small picture (specific events, people, dialogue in the stories) as well as the big picture (the nature/purpose/theme of the stories). Consider investigating the role of the gods, the relationship between gods and each other, the relationship between gods and man, events that transpired, consequences of events or actions, attitudes toward events and people, reasons the stories were told/written etc.

?#1 ?#2 etc.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Creation Hymn |  |  |  |  |  |
| Epic of Gilgamesh |  |  |  |  |  |
| Popul Vuh |  |  |  |  |  |
| Genesis |  |  |  |  |  |
| Five Worlds |  |  |  |  |  |
| Life is Sweet at Kumansenu \*modern |  |  |  |  |  |
| Night \* modern |  |  |  |  |  |

The grid is just one example of how you can keep track of the information from the stories. You do not need to use a grid, you may take notes however you’d like. Use the back side of this paper to do so.

1. After looking at your data (back side), what strikes you? Come to a conclusion (provide answers) about man’s understanding of the answers to the questions he asked during the period of the Roots of World Literature. Then look at the modern stories. In what ways do they ask the same questions? Are the answers the same?

State your conclusions:

4. Decide the best structure for organizing your information.

Essay Structure:

5. In a well- developed essay, discuss your findings.

* 1. Write your thesis statement: