

DELUGE

Compare Mesopotamian, biblical and classical accounts of the Flood. How are they similar and how are the narrative similarities (and differences) important?

MESHA

Compare the biblical and inscriptional accounts of Mesha's campaigns. How are they similar and how are the narrative similarities (and differences) important?

BYBLOS

Compare relations between Egypt and Byblos at the time of Rib-Haddad (Amarna) to the time of Zakarbaal (Wenamun). How are the accounts similar and how are the narrative similarities (and differences) important?

OTHER

Pick your own comparison. See me for approval.

BE CLEAR • BE BRIEF • BE SPECIFIC --- 500-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: The Deuteronomist 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; for abbreviations, see Brill's New Pauly

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

use NO MODERN secondary sources for this essay

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; you MAY consult *Brill's New Pauly* (www.brillonline.nl/subscriber/).

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

Herodotus described Battus as "quote" (IV.167) but Josiah as "quote" (V.23).

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:

Xenophon claims that the women "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 2008:2-3, no.1; Strunk and White 2000: no.17; Orwell 1946: no.2-3)

CLARITY

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

(Hacker 2008:16-19, 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. 2012. *A Pocket Style Manual*, 6th 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.