

**Q: HELP! I've read the entire Epic and I cannot find any roles/duties of a Sumerian King!**

I cannot give you the answer, but I can give you a place to start. First, without reading or looking at the epic, brainstorm some roles or duties of a king, any king that you have in mind; for example, ensure adequate food production in the kingdom. Write down anything that you would expect any king to do. Be both broad and specific. Once you have your list, then read the epic to see if you can find any of those same roles/duties there. You may find some of the same ones, exactly how you listed them down, or perhaps you will have to alter some of them, or you may even find something entirely new. Since this is a short paper, you only really need 2 duties/roles of the king.

Not everything in the epic is valuable or relevant to answering this question. It is a bit like mining for gold: you have to sort through lots of dirt. A role/duty is not going to be popping out at you on every page. But they are there, beginning, middle and end.

**Q: I cannot get everything onto one page. Is that okay?**

No, it is not ok. If your paper goes onto a second page, that will merit a request for resubmission. Therefore, be concise. Your introduction and conclusion are not to exceed two sentences. If necessary, you can use size 10 font. Cut out anything that is not needed to answer the question at hand: no background information on the story or Gilgamesh, unless it is evidence for the roles/duties of a Sumerian king. On the flip side, don't have a lot of empty space at the top or bottom of your paper.

**Q: Can I write in more than one paragraph?**

Yes, you must. This is a paper assignment, not a paragraph assignment. Some of your paragraphs, however, will be short. Both your introduction and conclusion paragraphs should not exceed two sentences. Each duty/role should be covered in its own paragraph.

**Other things to consider:**

1. In the N.K. Sanders edition, the Epic does not start until pg. 61. No one should quote from the "Introduction" from this edition, which means there should not be anything before pg. 61. (Note: if you have an electronic version of this text or if you have a different text, let me know this in a Works Cited.)
2. You need a strong thesis statement that directly answers the question at hand and preferably also addresses the roles/duties you will address in your paper.
3. You must provide direct quotes (in quotation marks) from the Epic of Gilgamesh in order to provide evidence for your argument (your thesis). One quote is not enough for each thesis point. Two is not the best. I hope to see three (the quotes must be short phrases, not multiple lines). Textual references are okay, but quotes are best. You must also provide page citations for your quotes and the best papers will choose quotes from various parts of the text.
4. Be careful that you do not summarize the text. This paper is about making an argument (your thesis) and defending it. Sometimes a brief summary (maybe two to three sentences) can help explain the role you are addressing, but make sure you are explicit about which role/duty you are discussing and explain how that story demonstrates this role/duty. If you are saying things such as, "This happened, and then this happened," or writing about what happens in the story, then you are likely summarizing and not advancing and defending your argument/thesis.