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Paper 1 Proposal

Topic: Love and friendship as displayed in Gilgamesh.

* Without the theme of friendship and love, this story would not have happened. It shows that friendship can change our lives and does not always happen in the most glorious of ways.
* Throughout the story, Gilgamesh is transformed from a very self-centered King, to a loving and compassionate leader, all because of the friendship of Enkidu and the struggles that they went through together.
* Friendship at this time was interesting because of the way society functioned. A person’s friends were often just those that were of similar class/job/location. Those who could would look out for those who could not and then favors would be returned.
* No, the author glorifies something that was typically very casual. Enkidu and Gilgamesh are described as though they are a couple through their actions, even in a time such as this where any display of emotion was typically seen as weak or even described as feminine.
* The thought of friendship in today’s culture is something that varies depending on who is asked. I assume that the average answer would be someone that they talk to on a regular basis and have some sort of mutual common ground with. Where as in this story, these two friends fully rely on each other, spend days upon days together, and are essentially family that does everything together.

I would argue that the style of friendship between Gilgamesh and Enkidu is something that most people should strive to achieve. A relationship as in depth as theirs greatly enhances the quality of life for everyone involved and allows for each person to thrive not only in this aspect of life but also in their goals, personal lives, and careers. A solid support system enables the chance to take risks and reach for your full potential while having someone or something to fall back on in case of failure.

1. Gilgamesh has the idea to invade the forest to kill the monster, Humbaba. Without the support of Enkidu, it is likely that Gilgamesh would not have been brave enough to take this fight alone, but with someone to rely on, he only feels confident in his decision to take this fight.
2. Despite losing Enkidu, Gilgamesh persistently tries to honor his life. As Gilgamesh endures the pain of losing his dearest companion, he also gains the respect for others, their community, and his respect for human life overall increases. Gilgamesh is transformed from a very selfish and thoughtless ruler, to a King that cares for his country and its inhabitants before our eyes all due to the friendship shown to him through Enkidu.