

Second Paper Assignment: Inquiry Paper

Part I

For your second paper assignment, you will write an “Inquiry Paper” on *The Book of Margery Kempe*. An “Inquiry Paper” -- as the name suggests-- begins by inquiring (asking a question) about an aspect of the text that you find puzzling, interesting, critical, or worthy of further explication and/or analysis. Your paper will then attempt to answer that question, and support the answer with textual evidence from the novel. There are two stages to this assignment:

The purpose of splitting the paper in two parts is to create the opportunity to

- a) Dedicate full attention to the finding of your inquiry question
- b) Allow time to change the inquiry question and take into account possible suggestions from your instructor *before* writing the actual paper.

Identifying the question:

The question that your paper inquires about could be about any aspect of *The Book of Margery Kempe* that you would like to write about. Anything you find interesting, confusing, or something that we simply haven't discussed enough during our class meetings. This could be a question about one or more of the characters in the text, it could be about narration, it could be about the use of certain cultural, religious, or historical references or literary devices in the text, etc. Here are a few examples of questions you might ask, but please feel free to choose your own questions or questions that came up during class discussion:

- Why is Kempe referred to in third person throughout the text?
- Is this an autobiography? Why/why not?
- Why does Kempe take a vow of chastity?
- What kind of relationship does Kempe have with Christ?

Come up with an inquiry question that interests you *or* use one of the suggestions/ideas from class/the questions listed above. Together with this question, you are expected to hand in 4-5 explanatory sentences in which you communicate

- 1) Why this question is interesting, confusing, critical, puzzling etc. to you → “What makes it worth discussing?”
- 2) Which aspects of the book you will focus on to address this question

This part of the Second paper Assignment is to be handed in one week prior to the due date of the paper itself - [Friday, October 12th by 9am]. Please, send this part to my email – sarah.fritz001@umb.edu

You will receive timely feedback on your inquiry question and are expected to pay attention to this feedback during your further work on this assignment.

Second Paper Assignment: Inquiry Paper

Part II

For your second paper assignment, you will write an “Inquiry Paper” on *The Book of Margery Kempe*. An “Inquiry Paper” -- as the name suggests-- begins by inquiring (asking a question) about an aspect of the text that you find puzzling, interesting, critical, or worthy of further explication and/or analysis. Your paper will then attempt to answer that question, and support the answer with textual evidence from the novel. There are two stages to this assignment:

1. **Fine-tuning the question.** No good paper is written in “one go” and most of the time scholars make more changes than they would like to admit. So, you are expected to work on your question after receiving feedback on it. If you feel you should change your question entirely or your instructor advises you to do so, you may take a new approach towards this assignment by choosing a new question. While this may seem like extra work, it will save you time and frustration during the second part of the assignment!

2. **Suggesting an answer to the question.** Finding an interesting aspect of the novel to explore is great, but it’s only half the work. Now that you have called the reader’s attention to that interesting question, the reader is hooked! They want answers! **Your paper should explore and suggest an answer**, and it should do so by making an argument. This means that your answer will not be a random assertion about the text like “I think the color of Harold the car symbolizes hope” but an observation about the text that you supplement with evidence through textual analysis. Imagine you were analyzing *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* and your question were “Why does Severus Snape help Harry Potter after all?”. You should **Try breaking your question down into several parts**. You would make sure to consider that in order to answer this question, you need to prove that he 1. Does in fact help Harry Potter, 2. identify at least one (preferably multiple) potential reasons for his help and find proof for the most convincing one. In other words: **strong textual evidence will lead to a strong argument!** Gathering evidence for your suggested answer will include some close-reading (please re-visit the close-reading guide that you used for your first paper assignment). This means, you will attempt to answer the question by calling the reader’s attention to the word choice, narration, structure, etc. of some key passages from the novel.

Your paper should be 3-4 pages long. Please double-space your paragraphs, use Times New Roman font, and make sure that the font size is 12
Please indicate page numbers for all the passages that you cite.

THIS PAPER IS DUE IN HARD COPY AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS (1pm) ON [Friday, October 19th]