**Position Papers**

For the rest of this semester, you will come to class as the character you have drawn. You must bring a name tag so people can address you as this person. You will get extra credit if you act in character and dress accordingly. You will be responsible for sharing the perspective of this character on the play we are reading.

**Step 1: Research (due the first day after break)**

You should begin by writing a 3-5 page description of this person as well as his or her biography, connections, and contribution to the culture whose works we are studying. How would the author of the current work have interacted with this person or known of this person, if at all? How would this person have responded to the issues the work we are studying? Would they have seen them? How would they have liked them? Detail specific events in the life of this person that would correspond to works in this class.

For this part of the assignment, you can start with Wikipedia but you should find more sources that are print sources (including library books, interlibrary loan items, and periodicals that you download. Ask me if you’re having trouble finding information on your person. Some materials are already on Blackboard, and you should use those materials). Do not rely exclusively on the Internet. If you do use an Internet source, explain who made it and how authoritative it is.

Your paper should have a Works Cited Page with non-Wikipedia entries in it (these can include authoritative web pages, but shouldn’t contain amateur pages created by college students or high school students or other enthusiasts.

You’ll be graded on the quality of the information you find as well as the detail you use (dates, specific episodes, quotes from other people of the period, etc.) You should use MLA style for this paper.

**Step 2: Position Papers for the two longer works**

You should also write two “position papers” (approx. three pages double spaced) in which you explain what insights your figure or figures might have on a work in question. These works can be plays, long poems (Faerie Queene or Paradise Lost), or prose works (for example, Novum Organum or Raleigh’s Discovery of Guiana). Obviously, you should try to pick works that have some connection. A position paper that said repeatedly, “My character would know nothing about this work” would be a bad paper and would probably receive a failing grade.

The position paper’s goal is to get you to think about how your work connects to its period. Its other goal is to show me that you have read the work in question all the way through. Therefore, you should make many specific references to several parts of your work (beginning, middle, end). The best position papers will also be specific about actual events in the life of your character(s) or actual events affecting that person or persons.