

English 328, “New World Writing in the Colonial Period”

Fall 2022 Midterm Paper

Requirements: 2 pages, double spaced (approximately 500 words)

Submission in Microsoft Word as an email attachment to abarrene@umw.edu

Due Date: 9/22/22 by 3:15 pm.

Your job is to tie together the two opening readings for this course, the Quiché Maya *Popol Vuh* (unit 1: Indigenous Worlds) and Bartolomé de las Casas’s *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies* (1542) (unit 2: The Conquest).

Respond to the following prompt:

The *Popol Vuh* tells us: “We shall write about this [the divine creation] now amid the preaching of God, in Christendom now” (pg. 63). In the case of the Quiché Maya who lived in what is today “Guatemala,” at least part of this Christendom took the form described in Las Casas’s *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies* (“The Province and Kingdom of Guatemala,” pg. 57-64). Sticking to that section of Las Casas’s book, quote selectively from the text and describe the language—its diction, syntax, and rhetorical effects. How do you suppose the events Las Casas tells may have influenced composition of the *Popol Vuh* from the “original book and ancient writing” (pg. 63) to the 1700s version we read in class? You might choose to handle the first part of the prompt on one page, and the second part of the prompt on the second page. Remember to edit your work.

Anyone who gets official help from the Writing Center will receive a grade bump.

Good luck!

