**One Story, Two Stories: The Expulsion of Hagar**

**Genesis 16 Genesis 21**

Sarah barren Sarah barren but made fertile

Sarah gives Hagar, the Egyptian to Abraham

Hagar becomes pregnant Sarah gives birth to Isaac

Hagar looks "with contempt" Son of Hagar, the Egyptian, plays with Isaac

Sarah angry with Hagar Sarah peremptory

A. gives Hagar into S.'s power A. resists S.'s wish for Hagar to be expelled

Hagar sent into wilderness, site by well Hagar sent off with child

Angel (Lord) appears Angel (G-d) speaks, reveals well

Promise of line to Ishmael G-d with lad who "grew up," takes an Egyptian wife

Ishmael is born; Abraham is 86

(The above is an example of how you might compile text evidence to present your claim about these two stories. For any of the topics below, you might do the same kind of analysis.)

# Topics for an essay related to the Pentateuch/Torah

Note: These topics are not in thesis form nor are they limited enough for development in a 3-5-page paper. For each you need to frame a claim or an assertion, based on the evidence you locate in the text.

1. Signs of Covenant in Genesis and Exodus

2. Making a Name: The Significance of Names and Naming in Genesis and Exodus

3. Blessings and Curses in Genesis and Exodus

4. "And Jacob blessed Pharaoh"(Gen.47.7, 10): The Image of Egypt in Genesis and Exodus

5. Seeing G-d: Patterns of Theophany in Genesis and Exodus

6. "Because the midwives feared G-d"(Exod.1.17): G-d and Fertility in Genesis or the

beginning of Exodus

7. "Is it not a little one?”(Gen: 19.20): The Image of Cities in Genesis

8. "To this day": Stories of the origins of peoples in Genesis

9. "We will call the maiden and ask her" (Gen. 24.57): Patterns of Female Initiative in Genesis

and Exodus

10. Male and Female Rivalry in Genesis

11. "That is an Abomination to the Egyptians" (Gen. 43.32): Meals and Hospitality in

Genesis

12. "God meant it for good" (Gen. 50.20): Joseph the Interpreter

13. "Take every man a lamb" (Exodus. 12) Patterns of Sacrifice in Genesis and Exodus

14. Arguing with G-d: The cases of Abraham and Moses

15. The Building of Altars in Genesis and Exodus

16. Slave Mentality – Human Weakness or Culpable Ingratitude

17. Holy War and the Land

18. Circumcise Your Heart--The Role of Law in Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy

19. The Ark of the Covenant/Cloud/Fire--God Dwelling Among the People

20. Biblical Songs--Genre of Praise, Hymns of Victory, and Oracles of Warning

21. Covenant Literature--Narratives of the Faithful and the Unfaithful

22. Study of a Life as spokesperson for God: Moses (or Joshua or Aaron)

23. The Israelites--a Chosen Possession or Incredible Burden

24. Hospitality--Welcoming the Stranger or Sacrificing Family

OR Your essay can explore a literary work from the beginnings to 1865 that builds significantly on biblical contexts. Your oral presentation then, can expand everyone’s knowledge of the literary works based in biblical texts.