1) preview the Week 4 assignment.

2a) Think back to the story. Why do you think so much time was spent describing Sir Gawain's shield? (~3 sentences)

2b) If you have any questions about the assignment, you may include them at the end of your response.

Sir Gawain was given a special shield bearing the symbol of the **pentangle**, or 5-pointed star. This was symbolic of many things, but namely, the **Five Knightly Virtues**: chivalry, generosity, brotherhood, chastity, and piety. Shields were not only used for defense, but as revered decorations in great halls and castles. Many depicted elaborate symbols that were used as recognition for a knight in both battle and tournaments, which is why shields were so personal to the knights that carried them.

You will create an original  shield bearing **your own** top 5 virtues. Your shield can take any shape or form, such as a traditional shield (see: [how to make a cardboard shield](http://www.stormthecastle.com/how-to-make-a/how-to-make-cardboard-shields.htm)), a coat of arms that goes beyond just a shield (see: [examples](http://www.pinterest.com/pin/201395414558990834/)), or your may choose to make an elaborate full-scale pentangle (see: [how to draw a perfect pentagram](https://sciencing.com/draw-perfect-pentagram-8547385.html)).

Visual Requirements

**You just have to draw the shield on the printer paper, then take a picture of it by your phone and send it to me, and I will mimic your copy on the cardboard.**

❖    The 5 values that you come up with must be clearly represented through colors, shapes, patterns, and/or designs. This will require you to do some basic research:

➢    [List of Symbols via Heraldry Meanings](https://www.hallofnames.org.uk/heraldry-meanings/)

➢    [Color, Pattern, and Symbols via Fleur de Lis](https://www.fleurdelis.com/meanings.htm)

➢    \*Feel free to use other representations of color, pattern, and symbol that are more specific or personal to you.

❖    Pentangle or symbolic representation of pentangle must be present somewhere

❖    Should include either your name, initials/monogram, or an alter-ego knight name if you choose :)

❖    Must measure at least 12" x 12" or larger: ie, do not simply draw something on computer paper - create an actual shield/coat of arms/star using poster board, cardboard, wood, or even metal (if you need a functioning shield to slay dragons). For online courses, you may choose to make a digital collage (must be original work created by student and resemble a shield in some way) or take a picture of your shield.

❖    Be creative! Remember, the medieval audience loved colors, gold, gems/jewels, and vivid imagery.

**Writing Requirements:**  
You will write a brief but formal essay to accompany your shield, which should be organized as follows:

                               I.Introduction: explain the overall design and/or inspiration behind your shield. You may have historical family background elements or other connections.

                            II.Body Paragraphs: Identify and explain the 5 virtues represented on your shield by:

➢    Elaborating on what each value is (by paragraph), why you chose that virtue, and what it represents to you

➢    Explaining visual choices (color, symbol, design, pattern, arrangement, etc.) and what they represent/how they represent the selected virtues. This will include what certain elements historically represent, specifically in the medieval era.

III. Conclusion: How do the elements of your shield work together as a whole  
            How does this reflect you as an individual? How do you think you, with this  
            shield, would have fared in medieval society?

❖    Bonus points: include a back story of your shield as though you are a medieval knight using this shield as protection.

Length: 500 words  
Format/Style: MLA, 8th edition. Include a Works Cited page for any resources used.