Paideia Discussion: Origin Stories and Epics

Most of the time, once we decide where we stand on an issue, we refuse to communicate with others in a controlled, intellectual, and adult manner. A Paideia discussion is a prepared conversation that will teach you how to both agree and disagree with others constructively, a vital skill in our tumultuous political landscape**. If you do not do the preparation, you cannot participate in the discussion and will receive a zero for classwork for the day.** Please do the following to prepare:

Read the following origin stories and myths:

1. The Greek Creation Myth
2. The Egyptian Creation Myth
3. A Native American Origin Story
4. Norse Myths- The Players and Freya’s Unusual Wedding
5. The Genesis Creation Myth

**Answer the SIX of the following questions in a paragraph EACH with textual evidence:**

1. What are the similarities between the stories? Think about wording, topics, literary devices*, cultural inferen*ces etc.
2. What are the differences between the stories? Think about the wording, topics, literary devices, *cultural inferences* etc.
3. What are some of the themes in the stories? How are they different? How are they similar?
4. How does narration affect the stories? How would they be different if the narration was first person? Second person? Third Person?
5. How does the characterization of the gods affect the your perceptions or interpretations of myth? Why?
6. Think about the items, elements, or traditions that a myth chooses to emphasize. How do these things affect our interpretations of the myth or the culture that it comes from?
7. Why was each myth told or written? How do the purposes behind each myth affect the way you interpret the texts?
8. What would you title any of the texts if you could title them yourself? Why?
9. Write at least one question for your classmates about the texts.