



Essay 1

Prompt: In the Introduction, Michele Stepto remarks that the ease with which Erauso moved throughout Spain and the New World after dressing like a man speaks to masculine freedom in this period. Through analysis of Erauso's example and the stories she recounts about other men, how would you describe masculinity in colonial Spain?

Your response should be 2-3 double-spaced pages, include an original title, include citations, and be uploaded to Blackboard in Word or pdf format (NOT PAGES).

Some things to consider:

1. Masculinity and femininity, the traits associated with being male or female, have changed over time. Context also changes the way gender is defined: a father evinces one form of masculinity, a monk another, a conquistador another.
2. In this short essay, you should concentrate on a specific point. Do not try to explain all facets of life in colonial Spain.
3. Your essay should be thesis-driven (an argument that requires defense) and include ample evidence (direct quotations from the text, not summary) and analysis that connects the evidence to your thesis (explains why the evidence works in your argument).
4. Components of masculinity that you might discuss include: nationality and patriotism, relations with women, religious piety, physical attributes, personality traits, relations with family, occupations and social classes, etc. Please note that this requires more analysis than simply explaining that masculinity included violence or pride. Think instead about other categories to which masculinity was attached, with which it overlapped, or on which it had an impact.

