

## ESSAY 03 • CLAS104: ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN: GREECE • PROMPTS AND GUIDELINES

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SENIORS DRAFT D03 SUN 18 APR • CONFERENCES MON 19 APR • FINAL E03 THU 22 APR @23h59

ROUGH DRAFT D03 FRI 23 APR • CONFERENCES FRI-MON 30 APR–03 MAY • FINAL E03 THU 04 MAY @23h59

Use as many passages as possible from a variety of authors, but focus on the ancient primary sources from the last third of the course—primarily Polybius and Thucydides, but also Aristophanes, Megasthenes, Aristotle, Pausanias, etc. You should also consider material evidence (coins, sculpture, etc.). You may also use two modern secondary sources (e.g. search key words on JSTOR and/or ProjectMUSE), but use them sparingly.

### WOMEN

- **Compare** how and why Greeks depicted women as they did. How and why are women idealized and/or demonized? How do depictions of women define the Greeks themselves and reinforce societal norms?

### FOREIGNERS

- **Compare** how and why Greeks (and Egyptians or Persians) depicted foreigners as they did. How do depictions of foreigners define the Greeks themselves? How and why does the level of identity shift in contact and conflict with others (i.e. Hellene, Ionian, Athenian)?

### SLAVES

- **Compare**, on the one hand, how and why Greeks depicted slaves as they did. How do depictions of the servile define the Greeks themselves. How and why did Greeks depict their own kin (e.g. Ionians, Messenians) as slavish? How could the Athenian democracy claim to preserve Greek freedom even as they expanded despotic control over other Greeks?

### HISTORIOGRAPHY

- **Compare** how and why Greeks depicted the past. use speeches and rhetorical motifs. How do they frame their histories dramatically (e.g. sieges, Thermopylae, ships sent to Mitylene) or medically (e.g. plague, *stasis*)? How do they organize and balance the past rationally? How and why do they depict the marvelous?

### POLITICAL THEORY

- **Compare** how and why Greeks depicted the rule of one, the few and the many as they did. How do depictions of political systems define Greek ideals?

You need not follow any of these prompts mindlessly—use them for inspiration. Or pick your own topic.

### BE CLEAR • BE BRIEF • BE SPECIFIC – 1000 word limit

- make your points clearly, concretely and succinctly
- your first paragraph should be just a few sentences long and should state your thesis
- use a spell checker, but look for typing errors, two

### ORGANIZE BY TOPIC • DEMONSTRATE THE DEPTH OF YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Each paragraph should have a specific comparison involving two or more sources

- resist the temptation to organize your paper by author or by chapter:

NOT paragraph 1: Herodotus says....

NOT paragraph 2: Thucydides says...

etc.

- instead, organize by topic:

paragraph 1: The foundation saga of...

paragraph 2: Alphabetic literacy held...

etc.

### CITE OFTEN • DEMONSTRATE YOUR COMMAND OF THE ANCIENT SOURCES

Use an abbreviated “Sacred Text” format for parenthetical citation of ancient primary sources. Find the proper form for each text on the extended outline page of the course website, or consult *Brill’s New Pauly* ([www.brillonline.nl/subscriber](http://www.brillonline.nl/subscriber))

#### **primary**

abbr. auth. [titl.] book. chapter (e.g. Thuc.VI.22)

use ancient primary sources OFTEN; for abbreviations, see *OCD* or *Brill’s New Pauly*

**secondary** (parenthetical *Chicago Manual of Style* author-date system) author + year : page + section (Smith 2006:123)

use modern secondary sources SPARINGLY (i.e. once or twice; use JSTOR or Project MUSE)

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Refer to the “How to Essay” video for explanation of these points:

[phoinikeia.org/ancmed/104/lectures/CLAS104\\_how-to-essay.pptx](http://phoinikeia.org/ancmed/104/lectures/CLAS104_how-to-essay.pptx)

Contact me if you have any questions: [bgarnand@gmail.com](mailto:bgarnand@gmail.com)

# THE RULES

Basic Principles of Composition and Usage

## VOICE

**Use the active voice.**

(Hacker 2008:3 no.2; Strunk and White 2000: no.14; Orwell 1946: no.4)

## TENSE

**Use the past tense.**

(Hacker 2008:9, no.5b; Strunk and White 2000: no.21)

N.B. Dead authors speak in the past tense, although their texts may speak in the present.

## SPECIFICITY

**Use definite, specific, concrete language.**

(Strunk and White 2000: no.16)

## BREVITY

**Use shorter words; omit needless words.**

(Hacker 2008:2-3, no.1; Strunk and White 2000: no.17; Orwell 1946: no.2-3)

## CLARITY

**Use everyday words before foreign phrases, jargon, metaphors, and figurative language.**

(Hacker 2008:16-19, no.9; Strunk and White 2000:76-79; Orwell 1946: no.1, 5)

## ORGANIZATION

**Choose a suitable design and hold to it; compose in paragraphs.**

(Hacker 2008:198-199, no.39; Strunk and White 2000: no.12-13)

## FLEXIBILITY

**Break any of these rules sooner than say anything outright barbarous.**

(Orwell 1946: no.6)

N.B. This concession in no way weakens the rules cited above.

D. Hacker. 2008. *A Pocket Style Manual*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Bedford/St. Martins.

G. Orwell. 1946. Politics and the English Language. *Horizon* 13.76:252-265.

W. Strunk and E. B. White. 2008. *Elements of Style: 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition*. Longman.