

MEET THE ANCIENTS: GATEWAY TO GREECE AND ROME



Contents

Overview and Logistics P.1

Grading Rubric P.2

Components P.3

Drafting an Essay and FAQ P.4

Assignment 2: Documentary Script

Semester-Long Project: Over the course of this semester, you'll be investigating something you find interesting about the modern world – sports, religion, technology, art, architecture, politics, culture, gender, whatever – and consider the parallels between ancient and modern. Essentially, how did your topic of inquiry look in ancient Greece and Rome? And how, if at all, did Classical antiquity influence how your topic looks today? Your final project will take the form of documentary or narrated presentation that has both audio and visual components.

Documentary Script: For this assignment, you'll be incorporating the feedback you received on your research proposal to write a script that you'll read during your documentary or narrated presentation. Your goal here is to (a) make this engaging to the reader / audience and (b) show that it's firmly grounded in academic research. Being able to convey ideas about arcane and esoteric topics in a comprehensible and engaging manner is a great skill to develop!

Essay Format: 750 words; double spacing; in-text citations and works cited (MLA); 1" margins. No parenthetical citations needed, but do include a bibliography at the end. See template attached to assignment for exact submission style.

Submission Format: Post your final draft to the appropriate folder on D2L. Go to the "Assignments" tab and select "Documentary Script". Title your file "Lastname.Script".

Grading: The First Draft assignment is worth 20% of your semester-long project grade, which in turn is worth 30% of your final class grade, meaning that this particular assignment is worth 6% of your final grade. See page two for the evaluation criteria.



How to Find Primary Sources

1) First, you can google your topic with those keywords. For example, "ancient greek athletics primary sources," and see what comes up.

2) Second, you can go to what are known as "sourcebooks". Sourcebooks are collections of ancient primary sources. So instead of modern people interpreting something ancient, they just put together a collection of ancient writings

about that topic. Some good examples for this class are:

- The Internet Ancient History Sourcebook

U of A Library (type in "ancient Rome sourcebook" or "ancient Greece sourcebook" and you'll find numerous ones on topics from death to sports to sexuality to daily life to imperial texts etc.)

3) Third, you can just go look at secondary sources and see what primary sources they draw on.

For instance, a book on ancient Greek music will undoubtedly mention the poet Pindar, who wrote odes to be sung in honor of the victors at the Olympics and elsewhere.

Grade Scale	
A	90 – 100%
B	80 – 89.9%
C	70 – 79.9%
D	60 – 69.9%
F	Below 60%



Grading Rubric

When it comes to grading written and oral assignments – both your mid-quarter essays and your final project – I base my rubric on the ideas of Marcus Tullius Cicero. MTC conceived of rhetoric as being composed of five different canons: invention, arrangement, style, memory, and delivery. For written assignments, I focus on the first three of these; for oral presentations, I consider the last as well. Although these may seem like primarily “stylistic” criteria, they also incorporate content. The creativity and quality of your argument falls under the “Invention” category, while your ability to support that with relevant and diverse evidence falls under the “Arrangement” category”. I’ve added logistics to the equation as well.

Cicero’s 5 Canons of Rhetoric	
<i>Inventio</i> (Invention)	Creativity, Originality, Significance, Precision, Quality of your Research Topic (don’t be too broad!). If you got feedback on the proposal that your topic was too broad, make sure to narrow it for this assignment.
<i>Dispositio</i> (Arrangement)	Organization of the Paper, Support for your research topic, Sources and evidence marshalled to bolster your topic/argument. Have you gone into enough depth? Have you used enough primary and secondary sources? Do you have all the necessary parts (specific example, topic, possible link to antiquity, sources, significance)?
<i>Elocutio</i> (Style)	Diction, Sentence Variety, Formality, Rhetorical Techniques. Is the paper written in a style that (a) is engaging to a broad audience and (b) authoritatively presents facts and information about the ancient world?
<i>Logisticae</i> (Logistics) <i>Technically not one of MTC’s canons, but that’s okay</i>	Is the paper formatted correctly? Are citations formatted correctly? Is the bibliography correct? Is it submitted as a PDF?



The Components

1) Introduction

Begin your essay with an introduction that draws in the reader. Feel free to modify and incorporate your research proposal introduction if that was effective. One way to do this is to use a “metonym” – a specific, single example that, if understood, conveys the issues of your broader topic.

2) Historical Overview

One of the main goals of this project is to have you investigate the Greco-Roman origins of some topic you're interested in that exists in the modern world. So make sure that you cover both antiquity and modernity in your script. Feel free to cover the time in between if that works too.

3) Synthesis

While the historical overview will likely cover the majority of your paper, you'll want to also discuss the connections between the various periods. This doesn't need to have its own separate section (but you can put one in if you want). Think about influence (or lack thereof) of one period on subsequent periods.

4) Overall Argument

Great papers will be able to go beyond summarizing the topical evidence and put forth a coherent, cohesive, and powerful argument about the development of the topic over time. Highlight this in the intro, and make sure to follow it all the way through.

5) Sources

Speaking of evidence, you'll want to integrate both primary and secondary sources into your paper. I'd like you to have at least four sources for this script – two secondary (modern) sources and two primary (ancient) sources. No need for parenthetical citations, but do mention the ancient authors by name in your script, that's interesting info for your audience!

6) Overview

- Must be at least 750 words
- Must cover at least Greco-Roman antiquity and modernity
- The more precise the topic, the better
- Include at least 4 sources, 2 ancient & 2 modern

Writing Skills Improvement Program (WSIP)

Professional tutoring by writing specialists (MA degree or above). All enrolled UA undergraduate and graduate students are eligible to receive one free individual tutoring appointment every other week from the Writing Skills Improvement Program. Tutoring sessions are 30 or 50 minutes long, and students may meet with the same or different tutors during their time at the University of Arizona. Students meet with a tutor as needed throughout the semester. Tutoring sessions may be conducted face-to-face or via Skype and focus on writing skills ranging from grammatical and mechanical concerns through brainstorming, organization, content development, source documentation, and online research.

<http://wsip.arizona.edu>

Learning Objectives

1) Learn to develop and support your ideas in a logical and evidence-based manner.

2) Learn to write about academic topics in an elevated yet engaging manner. Avoiding colloquialisms while still appealing to a broad audience is often an obstacle for college students, one which you will work hard to overcome.

3) Reflect on why research into the past is important. It's not always obvious – especially in today's STEM-centered education – why knowing about the past is important. Really think hard about this.

4) Continue learning about the connections between ancient and modern through primary and secondary source research.

5) Learn to improve writing through drafting and multiple revisions.

Think Tank

To help you meet your goals, the Writing Center has three types of sessions. You don't have to have finished your paper or have even started writing! You can come with just the assignment sheet, your notes or ideas, or a draft – and you can always come with questions for our certified peer tutors. Fifteen-minute drop-in and 30-minute appointment sessions are free. One-hour individual appointment sessions are fee based. Online sessions are available.

<http://thinktank.arizona.edu>

