

Activity 7 NEWSPAPER ASSIGNMENT

OVERVIEW

During this semester you and your satellite classmates will become familiar with the period of Rome's history which precedes the Cornelius family in our Ecce Romani text by about one hundred years. You will be reading about the events of the later Republic and early Empire, including the speeches of the famous orator Cicero, the career and assassination of Julius Caesar, the triumvirates, and the rise of Octavian to become the first emperor of Rome.

The Latin II class will create several newspaper reviews of this period. After reading all of the choices, select a particular topic or topics for your class. I have asked each school to try to keep within one topic or period so that students will be able to share information. This is not an absolute rule however. After selecting a school topic, each student will then write an article to submit to the newspaper. Many of you may also want to submit some of the optional extra credit entries that are described below. I hope that we will be able to compile your quality articles in the newspaper reviews during the second semester and return to your school a finished product to you to keep. If you are in a large Latin II class, your class may choose to create an entire newspaper. You will find details about all of these options given below.

- Step 1: Read the enclosed list of article descriptions. Decide with your classmates your favorite topic and send/call/e-mail it to me by **Lesson 60**. Then, each student in your class must pick a different article listed under the topic. N.B. You must choose an article from the list or get permission from me in advance for an original idea. You may also want to complete several of the extra credit items described. For every two well-written optional items you may receive ten extra points.
- Step 2: Read carefully the guidelines on the following page and the grading criteria outlined on the cover sheet. Research your article. One class period will be allotted for research, but you will need to spend more time on your own.
- Step 3: Write your article. Make sure you follow the format specified in the article description and answer all questions in the description.
- Step 4: At least a week in advance of the due date, give your article to a person in the Latin class. Your classmate should use the "grade sheet" criteria and make suggestions. After your classmate has critiqued your article and recorded suggestions, revise your article. Note the date and name of your critic on the grade sheet.
(Anyone who would like to have an article critiqued by me in advance of it being graded can send/e-mail it to me by **Lesson 64**. I will make suggestions, return the article to you for revision. Resubmit your article by the final due date. Your grade will be based on your final, improved version.)
- Step 5: Submit your final article to me by **Lesson 72** in one of the following ways:
- A. (Preferred) Fill in all information at the top of the "Grade Sheet" and submit it with your revised article directly to me through e-mail. **Keep a hard copy for yourself.**
 - B. Fill out all information at the top of the "Grade Sheet" given to you by your facilitator and submit a copy (not your original) of your revised article with the cover sheet attached to your facilitator. Unless special arrangements have been made, your article will not be returned to you, just the cover sheet with grade and comments.

Read Carefully!

Guidelines for Your Newspaper Article

Remember these points:

1. You must choose from the list of articles provided or get approval for an original topic in advance with Magistra Denny.
2. Each student must do his/her own article, i.e., no collaboration on individual articles.
3. Please enter your article into email, message to teacher or if necessary, send me a disk. You may send a hard copy with the file but I must have a file copy to be able to create a newspaper. Download the cover sheet or send me the hard copy which is at the end of this activity. Fill out the top portion of the cover sheet completely. You must consult at least three different sources (not all encyclopedias, for example). Submit a bibliography with your article that contains full bibliographical information (e.g. author, title, publication info). Computer resources (on-line encyclopedias, etc.) should be fully credited. It is important to paraphrase sources or use quotation marks for direct quotes.
4. Your article should contain accurate information and be rich in historical detail:
 - you should address all questions asked in the article description
 - your article should include specific details that support general statements and opinions
 - your details should be accurate according to historical sources
 - most articles should contain a credited graphic (Photocopied, hand drawn pictures or other graphics - include a caption.). Maps are crucial for many of the articles.
 - give your article an original headline if appropriate
5. The way you write your article is very important. Write in a style and language which is appropriate to the question.

For example, Article #7 states, *“You are a reporter on site at the Rubicon River and are witnessing first hand an event . . . Julius Caesar’s army has just crossed the river, and the words “Alea iacta est!” are circulating among his soldiers. What is the significance of these words? Where is the Rubicon River and why is Caesar crossing it? What events led to this move . . .? Interview several of Caesar’s soldiers, . . . or Caesar himself. Include a map . . .”*

Your article in response to this particular topic should be written in an immediate and vivid style with the detail of an eyewitness report. You should include direct quotes from your interviews with soldiers and Caesar. Some verbs in the account very likely will be in the present tense.

Some topics ask you to write editorials, obituaries, or book reviews. Before you begin writing, read a similar story in the real newspaper to refresh your mind on the language and style. **Remember that “traditional” reports are rarely appropriate for this assignment.**

Stay away from anachronisms! BC dates belong to a modern dating system and have no place in an ancient Roman story. Use Roman dating for days, months, and years. If you need help, consult Ecce Romani, Book 2, Chapter 36. Avoid modern place names e.g. use Gaul (or Gallia) instead of France. Avoid discussing the Roman influence on Renaissance Europe, since the Renaissance came centuries later.

6. Extra Credit Bonus Activities: You may receive up to ten bonus points on your required article for two well-done optional entries. These entries should present accurate details about aspects of Roman life (sports, fashion, vehicles, food, performances, traditions, etc.). Remember that drawings enhance your features.

Sports Column
Comic Strips
Business Tips
Dear Aurelia
Travel

Want Ads
Puzzles
Horoscopes
Style/Fashion

Advertisements
Theater Review
Food Column
Real Estate

Again, your special features should reflect research and a thorough understanding of the element of Roman life you are selling, reviewing, advising about, etc.

For example, a horoscope should use Roman dates and should predict happenings that are specific to Roman culture.

An Inadequate Entry: Aries (March 21 - April 19) Your love life is about to sour, but business ventures will make you a wealthy and happy person. Concentrate on the positive and you will do well.

A Better Entry: Aries (ante diem xii Kalendas Apriles - ante diem xiii Kalendas Maias) Cupid's arrow has gone astray and your love's eyes may wander about the Forum. Don't despair. Your fortune at the Circus will improve if you stay loyal to the blues. Let your Lares be your guide.

If you decide to create comics, the illustrations must have Roman pictures. Published modern comics with word changes are inadequate.

REMEMBER-

Read directions carefully.

A cover sheet (the grade rubric) with the topic and category, and a bibliography need to be included; topic must be chosen from list unless another has been approved; extra credit is only in addition to one of the articles; send by email or note to teacher please.

Graphics can be scanned into student document or mailed in hard copy.

Credit will be given for copyrighted graphics but these cannot be used in the on-line paper. Original art is encouraged...greatly encouraged. Cartoons are especially welcome.

Instructions for Creating Your Own Newspaper

If the class has six or more, I strongly suggest that you do a complete newspaper. Choose the appropriate number of topics for the class. One student should act as editor. Have by-lines etc.

Re due dates: I will give these during class. You should fill these in at that time.

If you decide to create your own newspaper, follow these guidelines:

1. You need to include each of the following:
 - ❑ a title of entire newspaper, e.g. Roma Hodie, Tempora Romana, etc. (title may be Latin or English, but Latin would be nice!)
 - ❑ in-depth articles (each student must complete his/her own article according to directions already described in assignment)
 - ❑ all components of a newspaper such as editorials, want ads, reviews, comics, etc. These would serve as bonus points (**up to 10 pts. for every two well-written entries.** A student may complete more than two optional features).
2. Every article and bonus feature must have a by-line to indicate who gets credit. Students still need to fill out the grading forms and send them in with the newspaper. They do not need to be attached to the newspaper if that spoils the visual effect.
3. If your newspaper is in black and white, send me a photocopy and keep the better quality original at your school to show your parents, friends, and faculty. If you plan to use a color printer, you need to mail a rough copy to me ahead of time for proofing so that your final color copy has no mistakes. I want to share the final copy of your color newspapers on air, but can only do so if there are no obvious errors. I can also make special arrangements to return these color finals to your school.

(Anyone who would like to have an article critiqued by me in advance of it being graded can send/e-mail it to me **before lesson 64**. I will make suggestions, return the article to you for revision. Resubmit your article by the final due date. Your grade will be based on your final, improved version.)
4. The due dates for your entire newspaper are the same as for individual articles. (Lesson 36)

How to reach Magistra Denny:

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Home Page:	www.dl.ket.org

Grade Sheet

(Each student must fill in the top information of this sheet and attach it to your article. This grade sheet, not the article, will be returned to you. Please keep a copy of the article for yourself.)

Student Name _____

School Name _____

Topic _____ Article # and Title _____

Headline (if appropriate) _____

Bonus Features 1. _____ 2. _____ // 3. _____ 4. _____

Peer Reviewer name _____ KET critique date (optional) _____

I. Cover sheet is complete. _____/10 pts.

II. Bibliography is complete. _____/20 pts.

- ___ at least **three** different sources (not all encyclopedias)
- ___ bibliographic info is complete (author, title, publication)
- ___ sources (including computer resources such as on-line encyclopedias, etc.) are fully credited
- ___ information is paraphrased, direct quotes are indicated

III. Article contains accurate information and is rich in historical detail. _____/35 pts.

- ___ article addresses all points raised in the question
- ___ article gives specific details that support general statements and opinions
- ___ details are accurate according to historical sources
- ___ article contains a graphic

IV. Article is written in an appropriate style and language to address the question. _____/35 pts.

- ___ article takes the point of view suggested by the question
(i.e. the article is not simply a "traditional" report)
- ___ article is written in vivid language characteristic of a newspaper article
- ___ article is free of anachronisms
(e.g. uses Roman dates and ancient place names; makes no references to modern periods of history)

Points Earned _____/100 pts.

V. Deductions

- ___ article is late (- 5 pts. each day late) _____ pts.
- ___ grammar, spelling, and proofreading need work (-1 pt. each error) _____ pts.

VI. Bonus

- Feature Articles _____ pts.
(+10 pts. for every **two** well-done features)

GRAND TOTAL _____/100 pts.

Important Dates:	
<u>Lesson 64</u>	Postmark deadline for early critique from KET
<u>Lesson 64</u>	Suggested deadline for a peer review
<u>Lesson 72</u>	Postmark deadline for the final draft to KET

(Remember to always keep a copy of any mailed materials!)

NEWSPAPER TOPICS AND ARTICLES

DIRECTIONS:

Read through the list of topics and articles below. Choose a **topic or topics** (if your class is large) that appeals to your entire class and inform Magistra Denny (e-mail, phone, fax).

Then choose which **article** you would like to write. Each student writes a different article. If you have an idea for a different article or a different format for an article, you must have it approved with Magistra Denny in advance.

Nota Bene! BC and AD dates (a modern system of dating) are given here to help you with your research. Remember you need to use the Roman dating systems for months, days, and years when writing your article. Also, use ancient place names instead of modern place names.

TOPIC I -- CICERO

Article #1: Catilinarian Conspiracy *news article*

You are a reporter in a crowd who just heard a speech delivered in the Forum by an orator named Cicero. He was accusing a man named Cataline of participating in a conspiracy to destroy the Roman government.

You are to recount the important points of the speech. Who is Cicero? Who is this conspirator Catiline? On what basis does Cicero make his accusations? What does Cicero say Catiline has done? What is his evidence? Were the spectators in the crowd convinced by the speech? What were the most effective points Cicero made in his speech? You may want to include a few important quotes from the speech in your article.

(If you choose this article, you will be sent a copy of portions of Cicero's first oration against Catiline, delivered in the Forum in 63 BC. Your article should make comment on the content and language of this speech.)

Article #2: Death of Cicero *obituary*

The famous orator Cicero has just been put to death by Antony (43 BC). Write an obituary that summarizes the important events of his life. Emphasize the events that led up to his death--his changing loyalties, pardon by Caesar, alienation of Antony, and eventual death sentence.

Article #3: Death of Cicero *2 editorials or letters to the editor* *(this could be a 2 person project)*

Write two editorials or letters to the editor. Each should take a different position on Antony's decision to have Cicero killed. Was he justified? Why or why not? Had Cicero been allowed to live, what do you think would have been his future actions? *(One editorial could represent the staff of the paper, the other a guest editorial or op. Ed. Piece. There must be 2 opposing views to for article #3.)*

TOPIC II -- FIRST TRIUMVIRATE

Article #4: Members of the Triumvirate *Interview*

As a reporter you are to interview each member of the new triumvirate that has just formed among the men Caesar, Crassus, and Pompey (60 B.C.). What does each party hope to contribute to the alliance? What strengths and past successes have led each of these men to power? What do

you think are their intentions for Rome? Do you think there is potential for a harmonious relationship among the men?

Article #5: Collapse of the Triumvirate *Investigative News Report*

The triumvirate has just collapsed (53 BC). Rumors about the causes of the break-up are rampant among the crowds in the streets today. Certainly the death of one of the members was the catalyst. One citizen even attributed the breakdown to Pompey's divorce. Your assignment is to investigate the end of the triumvirate. What events led up to this event? What disagreements drove a wedge into the alliance?

TOPIC III -- JULIUS CAESAR

Article #6: Julius Caesar *Biography (Who was this man of whom all are speaking)*

Everybody is talking about Julius Caesar who has just been elected consul. Some are impressed by his seeming alliance with the *populares* despite his aristocratic background. Some are intrigued by his claim to descent from a goddess. Others are alarmed by his quick rise to power and popularity with lower classes.

Your assignment as reporter is to write up a detailed biographical profile of Julius Caesar. What is his background? Include a discussion of his divine heritage, his political allegiances, the offices he has held. What is the *cursus honorum*? What qualifications has Caesar gained from previous offices that will make him a good consul?

Alternate Format for Article #6: *Obituary*

Instead of the article described above, you may want to address these same questions in the format of an obituary that would appear in the paper after Caesar's assassination.

Article #7: Gallic Wars *Book Review*

After returning from the province of Gaul, Julius Caesar published a memoir describing his encounter with and ultimate defeat of the Gauls. You are the book reviewer for the newspaper. Give a summary of the scope of Caesar's work, and then comment on his style and approach. Refer to a particular passage of the work. What is Caesar's attitude toward the Gauls? In what ways does he attempt to give an objective description of the war or to glorify his own interests? What impression do you get of Julius Caesar's skill as a military commander?

Article #8: Civil War *News Report - Late Breaking News*

Part I: You are a reporter on site at the Rubicon River (49 B.C.) and are witnessing first hand an event that drastically will change Rome's destiny. Julius Caesar's army has just crossed the river, and the words "*Alea iacta est!*" are circulating among his soldiers. What is the significance of these words? Where is the Rubicon River and why is Caesar crossing it? What events led to this move and what are the probable consequences? Interview several of Caesar's soldiers or, if possible, interview Caesar himself. Include a map with your article.

Article #9: Caesar in Egypt and Asia Minor *Man on the Scene Report*

The headline of your article is "*Veni, Vidi, Vici!*" You are the overseas correspondent for the newspaper. You are to document Caesar's exploits in Egypt and Asia Minor. Who were his enemies and what were the outcomes? Include a map with your article showing the pertinent regions. How are these words received among people who hear them circulating through the crowds?

Article #10: Caesar as “Dictator”*Editorial or Letters to the Editor*

(As with Article #3, 2 people MAY choose to represent two sides of the issue. This does not need to be a 2 person report as does Article #3.)

Everyone is eager to sound off about Caesar’s reforms. Some are enthusiastic, some skeptical, and some afraid. First, give a general account of the legislation Caesar has passed. Second, focus specifically on a few of the issues and include the reactions of various people you have interviewed in the streets of Rome. Expand on the Romans’ feelings about the titles “*dictator*” and “*rex*”. Find out when these titles have been used to describe people in power in the past. You may want to capture Romans’ reactions in the form of an **editorial** or in **letters to the editor**. You may want to cite statistics from **public opinion polls**.

Article #11: Julius Caesar’s Assassination *Front Page Story - Banner Head Line! Feature Article*

You are to write the front-page story. Include all relevant details about where, when, and how. Then, based on rumors circulating in the Forum, suggest who might have been involved in the conspiracy against Caesar and why. What unusual events, prophecies, and statements will remain in people’s memories about Caesar’s death?

TOPIC IV -- SECOND TRIUMVIRATE**Article #12: Formation***Feature Article*

In the wake of Julius Caesar’s death, three personalities emerge who try to heal civil wounds as well as secure control of the republic. Write a feature article. Who are these men and what is their relationship to Caesar? How do they arrange control of the empire? How do they avenge Caesar’s death?

Article #13: Battle of Actium*Report of the battle -suggestion to use entries from**Cleopatra’s journal.*

37 - 31 BC detail the events which lead up to the sad outcome to the Battle of Actium. How did Antony’s divorce of Octavian’s sister and subsequent marriage to Cleopatra (37 BC)? What were the successes and failures on both sides in this battle? What was the outcome for Rome? Include a map of Antony and Cleopatra’s fight and flight!

Article #14: Octavian Become Princeps *News article incl. an interview with Augustus*

News flash!! You have just witnessed a triumphal procession and the doors of the temple of Janus have creaked shut! Furthermore, citizens have given Octavian a new title. What is the meaning of all this -including the closing of the doors of the temple of Janus? Will it affect the grain ration? What will happen to the moral climate of the city? Speculate as a reporter might today. Ask rhetorical questions. Ask Augustus for his comments and predictions?

Article #15: The Reign of Augustus*First Person Interview*

Interview Augustus after he has been emperor about ten years. How has he sought to curb Romans’ fears of tyranny and show respect for institutions that were strong during the republic? What have been and continue to be his goals for the empire? What social reforms does he have in mind?

Article #16: The Reign of Augustus*Editorial or Letters to the Editor*

Augustus has been emperor about 10 years. He has fans and foes. Some like the changes he has made and some do not. Take both sides and write either two editorials or 2 letters supporting both fan and foe. This is a one-person assignment in which one learns to look at both sides of an issue.

TOPIC V -- VERGIL

Article #17: Life, Death, and Early Works *Obituary*

Write an obituary for the renowned poet, author of the Aeneid, Vergil. Include an account of his life, his patronage by Augustus, and an overview of his earlier works, the Eclogues and Georgics. Someone else will write about the Aeneid. You may reference it but don't go into detail.

Article #18: The Aeneid *Book Review*

Rumor has it that Vergil wanted The Aeneid burned because he did not have time to revise it before his death and felt it an inferior work. You are to review The Aeneid. Give a *summary* of the plot, but also discuss how Vergil attempted to embody in the character of Aeneas the ideals Augustus held for Rome. What characteristics of the work recall the Iliad and Odyssey, the well-respected Greek epics? How has the work been received by critics? Has it been deemed worthy as Rome's national epic?

N.B. Any obituary will be about someone of importance. It should be detailed

Important Events 63 - 27 BC

63 BC

- *Conspiracy of Cataline
- *Caesar- Pontifex Maximus
- *Cicero is elected consul: suppression of conspiracy; 4 orations against Cataline

60 BC

1st Triumvirate forms

59 BC

Caesar elected consul w/Bibulus

58 BC

Cicero forced into exile by Clodius

57 BC

Cicero recalled to Rome

53 BC

End of 1st Triumvirate

49 BC

- *Civil war. Caesar v. Pompey
- *Cicero joins Pompey in Greece
- *Caesar crosses Rubicon
- “Alea Iacta Est”

48 BC

- *Caesar consul a second time
- *Pompey defeated at Pharsalus
- *Cicero returns to Italy; pardoned by Caesar

47 BC

- *Caesar defeats Ptolemy
- *Caesar conquers Pontus in Asia Minor, to Rome “Veni, Vidi, Vici”

45 BC

Caesar proclaims self Dictator for Life

44 BC

- *Caesar assassinated
- *Cicero begins Philippics v. Antony

43 BC

- *2nd Triumvirate forms
- *Cicero put to death by order of Antony

37 BC

*Eclogues published, V. begins Georgics

29 BC

Virgil publishes Georgics starts Aeneid

27 BC

Octavian becomes Princeps or “First Man of the Senate” He is given the name “Augustus” and becomes the 1st emperor of Rome.
“Pax Romana” begins