



Latin Transition Primus

Midterm Exam Essay

In the first class of the semester, we discussed the difference between writing and literature. Since then we have spent a great deal of time discussing the literature in class and you have been reading the graffiti and inscriptions on your own. For your midterm essay, I would like you to examine three things you have learned about Roman society or culture based *solely* on the graffiti and inscriptions found in chapters 1-11.

This essay should follow the five-paragraph essay format using specific graffiti and inscriptions as supporting evidence in your three body paragraphs. There should be a *minimum* of three graffiti/inscriptions to support each point you are making. If you are unfamiliar with the 5-paragraph essay format, please see the link at the bottom of your Quia class page. Please remember that the concluding paragraph of a good five-paragraph essay will go beyond summarizing what was said previously and provide additional insights, such as why the information is important.

Citing Graffiti/Inscriptions

The graffiti/inscriptions you use to support your arguments should be included in Latin followed by your own English translation. Put the Latin in italics first with the English in plain text (not italics) directly following it. The citation comes after the English in parentheses. Every graffiti/inscription is given its own unique identifying number which can be found immediately below its entry (e.g. the graffiti of the labyrinth on page 12 has the number CIL 4.2331). There is a paragraph on page xv of the Introduction to *Scribblers, Sculptors and Scribes* that explains this numbering system. To cite your graffiti/inscriptions as examples, you need only put this number in parentheses and then, to make life easier on me, please put the chapter number following this. No other citations are necessary.

e.g. *Hic habitat Felicitas* Felicity lives here (CIL.4.1454 I)

Citing Latin

While this assignment is graffiti/inscriptions-specific, if there is a quote from the actual Latin that specifically pertains to the graffiti/inscriptions you are discussing and you wish to include it, here is how that is done. ***Be careful, though - a quote from the primary authors does not count as a graffiti/inscription in support of your argument.*** Give the Latin followed by

your own translation in English with no intermediary or explanatory words such as “The English says,” etc. The Latin should be given in italics followed immediately by the English in plain text (not italics.) No quotation marks are needed for either the Latin or the English. Follow the English with the citation in parentheses giving author’s name, the abbreviated form of the work, book, section, and line numbers.

e.g. *Nam et navium figura et remorum motu et inusitato genere tormentorum permoti barbari constiterunt ac paulum modo pedem rettulerunt*, For the barbarians being startled by the form of our ships and the motions of our oars and the nature of our engines, which was strange to them, stopped, and shortly after retreated a little (Caesar *de Bello Gallico* 4.25.7-8).

NB: It is not necessary to include any quotes from the literature. If you choose to include one be certain that it is supporting your graffiti/inscriptions not the other way around.

How to Begin

Your best approach to this essay will be to read through all of the graffiti/inscriptions once and see what you notice or what sparks your interest. You might consider content including attitudes toward death or health, politics, genders roles, leisure time, occupations, or any other angles you choose. You might choose how graffiti/inscriptions were written or another linguistic approach. There really are a lot of ways to go with this. Have some fun, just make sure it’s well supported. A well-supported point will have at least three graffiti/inscriptions as examples. More examples are fine as long as they support your premise. Graffiti or inscriptions that do not support a premise will be viewed as “padding” and will cost you points. Likewise, arguments supported by fewer than three graffiti/inscriptions will be considered unsupported. Any essay that does not have at least nine separate, *pertinent* examples will automatically lose points.

Hint: If you cannot find enough graffiti/inscriptions to support a point you’d like to make, reevaluate your categories. You may not have enough graffiti to support females writing that they love males, for instance, but if you broaden the category to love graffiti, you will certainly have many examples and what you notice about males and females could be discussed as a subcategory. It’s best if you let the evidence lead you instead of you trying to cram the graffiti/inscriptions to fit an idea you have. Keep an open mind and see where the evidence takes you.

Midterm Grade

This essay is worth 20% of the midterm grade. The other 80% is the exam and questions about grammar, vocabulary, translation, cultural information that we discussed in class.

Send completed essays to me via email in a .doc or .docx format (sfisher@lukeion.org) or share with me on Google Docs no later than 7:00 pm ET on Monday, October 13. If you share it through Google Docs, please be sure you turn on sharing and email me to let me know that you submitted it.