Circus Maximus: Assignment 2

Imagine you are a gladiator, actor, prostitute, fan, opponent, funder in Rome writing a letter home to a family member, who has asked you to describe a day in your life. Be sure to include the following: a visual description of your work place, your fears, complaints, small joys (if there are any), hopes for the future, and the dynamics between you and your trainer, fans, pimp, fellow prostitutes. Be sure to include details!

The first part of the project is a letter (2-3 pages) written from the perspective of someone in antiquity.

The second part is an explanation of how you've constructed your letter (2-3 pages). You should talk about the books that provided the facts you've given in your letter, primary sources that provided inspiration, and why you've attributed particular emotions, hopes, despairs, beliefs to your person. This is not an essay. You do not need to have a thesis or an argument. You simply have to explain why you have written what you have written, how you've used the sources/where you found your information. Please see criteria below for more details.

Oct. 16, 11.59 pm: Your rough draft of the letter, writing process narrative/explanation of sources, as well as the comments made by a peer and your response to them are due. I will not be providing comments to you. This draft is worth 5% of your grade.

Here is the breakdown of the rough draft grade: 20% letter; 20% writing process narrative/explanation of the use of sources; 40% comments on a peer's letter (this means that the comments that you make on another's paper will count towards your rough draft grade; 20% response to peer comments.

Oct. 20, 11.59 pm: The final draft of the letter is due.

Both I and your peer will be examining your letter for the following criteria:

1) Authenticity/clarity of voice--does the letter reflect the voice of a prostitute, actor, gladiator, funder, opponent of the games?

2) Daily Life: does the letter give a believable and accurate representation of the life of the person writing the letter?

3) Form: is the narrative constructed as a letter?

4) Content: does the author demonstrate that he/she understands the social dynamics between groups within Rome (i.e. between intellectual elites and prostitutes/actors/gladiators, between the audience and the gladiators)?

Both I and your peer will be examining your writing narrative/explanation of sources for the following criteria:

1) Identification of Sources: has the author identified the sources for facts given in the letter? (this includes both references to books/journals from the library and readings from class)

2) References: does the author provide page numbers from books/articles for specific facts/information provided in the letter?

3) Outside Sources: has the author identified two sources (either journal articles or library books) used in the paper?

4) Works Cited: has the author included a 'works cited' page that includes not only the outside sources but also the readings from class used in the letter?