How to find primary sources for assignment two.

***You must use at least two primary source and two secondary sources not assigned as readings for class. To write a good letter, you may need to use several readings assigned for class (for example, Burkert, Zeitlin, and Zaidman and Schmitt Pantel), as well as two required secondary readings not assigned for class (found by research). That’s ok. However, when you review the readings and your daily comments, you find that Hesiod is the only primary source author who offers information relevant to your letter. That’s also ok. It just means that you might have to do some digging to find your second primary source text. Here’s how to find another (or maybe two or three!) primary source texts. Keep in mind that I’ve posted some primary sources under assignments. You should have a look at these to see if they’re useful to you.

Let’s use the readings from Wilkins and Hill’s Food in the Ancient World. On page 63 of this reading, Wilkins and Hill reference a passage about Milo of Croton that you would like to use in your paper. First, you need to determine whether Milo of Croton was Greek or Roman. Wilkins and Hill discuss both cultures, and, since your assignment is to write from the perspective of a Greek person, you will need to make sure that Milo of Croton is relevant for your paper. A quick search reveals the following website, which is an excellent resource for information about the ancient world:

http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/Olympics/milo.html

Here we learn that he was born in Italy, but participated in the Olympic games during the period of time that has been our focus. This means that you can use this passage in your letter.

Next, you need to decide whether the information Wilkins and Hill offer will suffice, or whether you need to look at the passage in its original context. Examining the original is generally a good idea. To do this, you now need to go to the following website, which is where you will find most Greek and Roman writers’ works available in translation and in the original language:


Now, scroll down until you see Athenaeus, who, according to Wilkins and Hill, is the primary source for this information about Milo of Croton. (You can find out more about Athenaeus in the document posted on the course website under assignments with information about gods, terms, maps, primary sources, and bibliography.)

Now click on the arrow by Athenaeus’ name. He only wrote one work, so Wilkins and Hill must be referencing this one work. Click on Deipnosophists (English). According to Wilkins and Hill, the passage comes from Book 10, paragraph 412, sections e-f (10.412e-f). You will notice that Book 10 is the only book that the website doesn’t offer. This means that you will either have to cite Athenaeus as quoted by Wilkins and Hill, or you will have to find Athenaeus' Deipnosophists in another place. A quick library search reveals that the library has a full collection of Athenaeus’ multivolume work:

http://biblio.middlebury.edu/search~S2?/Yathenaeus&searchscope=2&SORT=D/Yathenaeus&searchscope=2&SORT=D&SUBKEY=athenaeus/1%2C13%2C13%2CB/frameset&FF=Yathenaeus&searchscope=2&SORT=D&4%2C4%2C

When you go to the library, you will find Book 12 in volume four. This volume comes from a series called The Loeb Classical Library (here’s a link to information about the series:

http://www.hup.harvard.edu/collection.php?cpk=1031). If you are looking for a primary source, Loeb editions are a great resource, and the library should have most of them.

Athenaeus' Deipnosophists was tricky. Locating references for some authors will be easier or more difficult. It’s up to you to decide whether locating a difficult text is worth it. Finding scholia (notes made
in the margins of manuscripts by commentators) can be difficult. Finding references to plays by Aristophanes or Plato will be fairly easy.