Assignment #4: Expectations, Due Dates

**Paper Four Prompt:** For this assignment you will write a persuasive essay written from the perspective of an ancient Roman for an opinion piece in a hypothetical ancient newspaper. *You must choose one of two positions: either that food unites people, or that it divides them. At the end of your persuasive piece, you must take a stance either reaffirming cultural norms—be sure to specify which—or endorsing a shift—be sure to specify why. Keep in mind that an educated Roman would be well aware of Greek traditions, mythology, and norms, so feel free to reference Greek (or Etruscan) traditions if you find them useful.*

Your persuasive letter should be 2-3 pages. In addition you will write a 2-3 page writing process narrative explaining how you used your sources to construct your persuasive essay, how you have organized your essay and why, and why you decided to offer the evidence and arguments that appear in your essay. You must use a minimum of two primary sources and two secondary sources, and at least one peer-reviewed journal article or chapter from a book. Please explain how you found your journal article or book chapter in your writing process narrative (i.e. L'Année Philologique, JSTOR, browsing the stacks, reading the footnotes or bibliography from a class reading). The journal article must be published after 1970.

More generally, your essay should reflect a careful consideration of audience and counterarguments, and your writing narrative should address both of these. All of your citations should appear in your writing process narrative. You may refer directly to your creative letter. Both your creative letter and your writing process narrative should be formatted as follows: spacing 1.5, Times/Helvetica, 12 point font, one inch margins on all side. You must include a works cited page and in-text citations (MLA).

Breakdown of the final draft grade: 45% letter; 45% writing process narrative; 10% in-text citations and works cited page.

**Due Dates/Times:**

*(T 8 Dec) ****Class Debate (preparation for assignment four due in class). We will discuss the debate on December 3. Information about the debate and how to prepare for it has been posted under assignments.*

*(F 11 Dec 7.59 pm) Paper Four, Final Draft due. Please email me your paper as a word or google doc.*

**Grading Guidelines**

**Persuasive Essay**

1) Argument: Is the writer's position clear?

2) Final Position: Does the writer posit a plan at the end of the essay?

3) Evidence: Does the writer effectively employ primary sources in the letter? Feel free to directly reference and quote primary source authors as Plutarch does.

4) Counterarguments: Does the writer consider possible counterarguments either explicitly, as in the case of the New York Times op-ed piece, or implicitly as Plutarch does?

5) Audience: Would the letter be persuasive for an ancient audience?

**Writing Process Narrative**

1) Identification of Sources: Has the author identified and explained how two primary and two secondary source readings were used to construct the essay?

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

3) References, part two: Does the author refer to specific passages in the essay?

4) Outside Sources: Has the author identified an outside sources (either a journal article or chapter from a chapter from a book)? Has the author explained how the source contributed to the construction of the letter, and how the source was found (L'Année Philologique, JSTOR)?

5) Works Cited