Assignment #1: Expectations, Due Date

Paper One Prompt: While the ancient Greeks ate meat, they also talked about meat in ways that both reflect their culture and reinforce cultural norms. How is meat meaningful within the context of these cultural discourses? What do we learn about the ancient Greeks by examining their culture through the lens of meat?

Due Dates/Times:

Due Thursday, Oct. 8, in class: ****Writing Lab: Please come to class with a rough draft or annotated outline of your paper.

Due Friday, Oct. 9, 7.59 pm: ****Paper 1, Rough Draft: Please email me your paper as a word or google doc. Your paper will be returned to you with comments by the end of the day on Sunday, Oct. 11.

Due Friday, Oct. 16, 7.59 pm: Paper 1, Final Draft. Please email me your paper as a word or google doc.

Formatting: 4-5 pages, spacing 1.5, times/helvetica, submitted by email as word document (or you can share your paper with me through google docs). All papers must be submitted by 7.59 pm unless indicated otherwise. All papers require in-text citations and a works cited page (format MLA). A citation guide for primary sources in classics will be posted under "course materials."

Your paper must include the following:

1) An introduction.
2) A clearly stated thesis.
3) A well thought out argument. Your argument cannot be a restatement of someone else’s argument. You can reference an argument someone makes that offers support for your argument, but you cannot reargue someone else’s point.
4) References/quotes from our class readings (if you argue a point or reference an argument that was made by someone in our readings, you must reference that reading). **You must reference/quote at least two primary sources and two secondary sources.** Your use of these sources must be relevant to your argument. You are not limited to two primary and two secondary sources.
5) Proper citations (please use MLA if you do not have a preferred format; information about citing primary sources can be found under course materials).
6) A conclusion: Your paper must have a compelling conclusion that is not simply a summary of the introduction and/or a summary of the main points. How has your analysis led you to revisit opinions/conclusions concerning evidence/arguments from the ancient world or issues in contemporary society?
7) A works cited page.

How to construct/identify your argument and sustain it:

What is an argument?
An argument is a position.
A counterargument could reasonably be made for an argument.
It cannot be made without providing evidence (i.e. the readings from class).
While an argument often explains how you will prove your point (i.e. through a comparison between Roman and American spectacles of death and violence…), it also explains what that point is (i.e. what you have learned through the comparison).
It is not a summary of someone else’s argument.

Which of these is an argument?
1) After examining the history of violence in entertainment, it is clear that we also enjoy a degree of violence in our entertainment.
2) An analysis of how class structures and social norms were enforced through violence in Rome indicates that we, like the Romans, experience the punishment of criminals as a form of entertainment, which has the effect of stabilizing the social norms of our society through fear.
3) Why would such an advanced and civilized society like Rome enjoy such violent spectacles?
4) Roman spectacles of death, while entertaining, were essential for maintaining social order within Roman society.
5) There is an interest in violence, even death, in all of us, no matter how far we have come from gladiatorial games.

**How to identify your argument:**

One way to identify an argument is to construct a problem (see #3). However, this is not enough. What have you learned by exploring this problem? Often you do not know what your argument is until the end, when you finally draw some conclusions after exploring the problem. This is the moment when you will need to take elements of your conclusion and make them your introduction. Then you will need to revise your paper so that it is clear how each point you make/paragraph you write contributes to your argument and flows with the logic of your paper. Then you can think again about how this argument is meaningful in your conclusion.

**How to sustain your argument:**

As you are writing, please keep in mind that writing a paper is like telling a story. There is a sequence. Each point builds from the previous one in a logical sequence. Writing--even writing the 'truth'--is about telling a story. Just because you have identified a thesis and provided evidence does not mean that you have constructed an argument; a thesis plus evidence does not necessarily equal an argument. You have to explain how each paragraph builds off the previous one and creates an argument for the case that you are making.

You cannot assume that I or your reader will make the same connections that you do as you present the evidence. Therefore you must spend the time explaining how each quote, paragraph, and point contributes to the argument that you are making. Your conclusion should identify what you have learned from writing this paper. If you feel that you need to restate your thesis in order to tie together your paper, then there's a good chance that you've lost track of your thesis as you were writing, and that the paragraphs that comprise the body of your paper do not explain how the evidence contributes to your thesis. Your conclusions should identify what you have learned from your analysis, and why your analysis is important.

**General outline for grades:**

***Please keep in mind that this outline is a 'general outline' and cannot take into account all grading scenarios that one may encounter.***

A: This paper will cover points 1-7 listed above, be well written, have no major factual or grammatical errors and possibly actually teach me something new.

A-: This paper does all of these things, but lacks a compelling conclusion (i.e. does not revisit opinions/conclusions concerning evidence/arguments from the ancient world or issues in contemporary society).

B+: This paper understands the major concepts and cites the readings, but the argument is not clear, and it lacks a compelling conclusion (i.e. does not revisit opinions/conclusions concerning evidence/arguments from the ancient world or issues in contemporary society).

B: This paper understands the major concepts, but is perhaps not as well written and doesn't use the readings sufficiently, and/or does not contribute any new insight into the material.

B-: This paper fails to show me that you did the readings or has a level of writing that seriously detracts from what you are saying.

Anything lower than a B- indicates that I am concerned that you either did not understand the readings or failed to do them. If you receive a grade lower than a B-, please make time to come see me during office hours so you can figure out how to improve your grade on the next paper.