

Greeks III: Essay 1: Love

You have recently read Plato's Symposium and Euripides's Hippolytus. Both deal in different ways with issues surrounding love. You don't have to, but I'd strongly suggest also reading Part VIII of Xenophon's Symposium, which is only about six pages, but is the discussion that Plato is expanding upon in his Symposium but not entirely the same. In a five paragraph essay, discuss three aspects of love and beauty discussed in these works from the points of view of at least three of the "characters." (Be sure that **both works** are included **generously** in this essay.) At the end of the essay, provide your own conclusions about how Greek culture at the end of the fifth century, B.C. viewed these issues and what you think of their viewpoints. Among the aspects you may choose are beauty, attraction, chastity, relationships, power within relationships, lust, sex, gender, trust (as related to love), bisexuality and/or homosexuality, age and friendship. You may choose others if they relate to the topic and the works.

Introduction: Introduce the works in question, the authors and the characters whose views you will be discussing in the course of the essay. Do this so that a reader not familiar with these works will understand what you are discussing. In the **thesis statement**, lay out specifically the main theme or themes of the essay.

Body paragraphs: In each of the **three** body paragraphs, choose one of the aspects listed above (or one of your own choosing) and discuss how at least three of the characters in the two works (**including at least one from each work**) feel about each aspect. Therefore, you will be discussing the views of **at least three individuals in each body paragraph**. They need not be the same three in each body paragraph. Use parenthetical notes to show me where in the book I can find quotes or specific facts. They should look like this: (Plato 37) following a quote or fact from page 37 of The Symposium. **Be sure to explicitly tie your evidence back to the point you are making.** Summarize the paragraph's main point at the end. Never end a paragraph with a quote.

Conclusion: In a full discussion, synthesize what you think Plato and Euripides are saying about love and in what ways you think late 5th/early 4th century B.C. Athens's viewpoint about love was similar to and different than our own. Be sure you have proven your points. That's a lot to do, so this should be a substantial and well-reasoned paragraph.

Due: Thursday, March 27

Revision Deadline: Monday, April 7

Please feel free to complete these sooner.

Be sure to consult with me **before** the last minute **if you have done the reading** and need help or if you need revising help.