

INSTRUCTIONS FOR DISCUSSION LEADERSHIP

in Classical Civilization 372 Discussion Section

(Assignment by Nadhira Hill; adapted from [this assignment](#) by Emilie Amt)

Each student in the class has been assigned to a discussion leader group for one of the final two weeks of the course (Week 6 or 7). Please note: This is not a presentation. You are not speakers, but facilitators. You should do the following:

- Do the assigned readings well in advance of class, and be familiar with them.
 - Optional: Do some additional background reading on the topic and/or watch the lectures associated with the readings we will discuss in section.
- Write three to five questions that can be used in class to prompt discussion of the readings. Copies of these must be in the form of either a link to a shared Google Doc or a Word Document or PDF that will be circulated to the rest of the class. Please submit your handout to me (the instructor) by midnight the day before our section meeting. The handout you give to me (the instructor) should include a list of any extra reading (articles, websites, etc.) that you did. Use your questions in class.
 - Advice about composing questions:
 - Avoid yes/no questions, unless they have a strong “why” or “how” component.
 - Avoid purely factual questions with short answers. Stress questions that require thinking/interpretation.
 - You might quote a significant sentence from the reading and ask a question about it.
 - Try to tie the reading to what we’ve learned about or talked about in other class sessions.
 - Ask questions that ask for comparison or connections between the subject of the reading and other things we’ve been studying.
 - Ask questions that call for evidence, either from the reading or from elsewhere in the course.
 - Optional: Your handout could also include a relevant illustration, cartoon, etc. Would a diagram or illustration be helpful for people in understanding or discussing this reading? Would a map be helpful? Would some vocabulary be useful? There will be extra credit for these extras.
- You should coordinate with the others in your group while planning. You may divide up the readings between you.
- During class discussion, take a leadership role in asking the questions, raising interesting issues, presenting relevant information, and keeping the discussion centered on relevant issues. Each group member should contribute something to leading the discussion (i.e. asking a question, reading a quote, raising an interesting issue, etc).

- During class discussion, you're the person responsible for calling on other people to talk (names of classmates can be found on the right-hand side of the Bluejeans call). Make sure everyone has a chance to speak, and try not to call on the same person too often if other people have not spoken. Encourage everyone to participate.

The grading rubric for this assignment is found on the next page.

If you are absent on your assigned day (unless you have made an arrangement with me in advance), you will receive a zero for this assignment.

DISCUSSION LEADER GROUPS

SECTION 102	SECTION 103	READINGS
<u>Week 6</u> [student names]	<u>Week 6</u> [student names]	<u>Week 6 (06/08-06/12)</u> Potter and Mattingly 351-371 Potter <i>TVC</i> * 137-222 Philostratus, Concerning Gymnastics Texts relating to cheating Texts relating to gladiators Texts relating to charioteers
<u>Week 7</u> [student names]	<u>Week 7</u> [student names]	<u>Week 7 (06/15-06/19)</u> Potter <i>AR</i> * 276-322 Potter <i>TVC</i> 225-307 The Acts of Paul and Thecla (Hansen pp. 50-63) The Martyrdom of Saints Perpetua and Felicitas; the Acts of Saints Perpetua and Felicitas Texts relating to women

*TVC = The Victor's Crown; AR = Ancient Rome

SUMMARY AND PEER EVALUATION

Following the section meeting in which you are the discussion leader, you should submit answers to the questions that your group came up with for section and briefly summarize the class discussion. Discussion leaders are responsible for summarizing answers even if the questions were not addressed during their assigned date.

You should also comment briefly on what you contributed to the group, and whether you felt that everyone contributed equally to the project.

DISCUSSION LEADERSHIP RUBRIC

Preparation and thought:

Did the leader communicate an understanding of the issues in the assigned readings? (10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0)

Did s/he effectively tie in those issues to larger themes in this course? (5 4 3 2 1 0)

Was there a handout? (5 4 3 2 1 0)

Questions:

Did s/he have three-five prepared questions and use them during class? (10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0)

Did the leader follow the syllabus guidance in preparing the discussion questions? (5 4 3 2 1 0)

Were the questions relevant, thoughtful, and appropriate? (5 4 3 2 1 0)

Leadership:

Did the questions engage the class? (5 4 3 2 1 0)

Did the discussion leader interact well with the class and keep discussion moving? (5 4 3 2 1 0)

Total: _____ (out of 50)

Extra Credit Points:

Did the handout include helpful extras? Extra points: _____ (up to 2)

Was any additional reading done? Extra points: _____ (up to 2)

Total points: _____ Grade: _____