

Herodotus is writing in the mid to late fifth century, B.C., into the early years of the Peloponnesian War (between Athens and Sparta) about events that had happened approximately sixty to forty years earlier. On the surface, he is describing the war between the Greeks and the Persians, but we learn a lot more than just the facts of the war. **Write an essay of at least four paragraphs that compares Herodotus's assessments of the Spartan and Athenian characters and how they fit into overall Greek culture.** How do these different poleis act and change (or not change) during the Persian War. How is this war a turning point for either or both? Consider their actions and policies both during and at the end of the war, and consider the types of leaders who represent these poleis. What are their strengths and weaknesses, and how are these fed by the political systems in these poleis? **Be sure to focus on at least one leader from both of the poleis in your essay.**

*In your **introduction** begin by defining terms and introducing key background. Introduce your topic, the work in question and provide a framework for your essay. Provide any background necessary to someone unfamiliar with Herodotus and these poleis. Be sure to close this paragraph with a thesis statement, a single sentence that lays out clearly the main point of your essay.

*In the **first body paragraph**, discuss Sparta, its system and its policy in detail. Use specific examples to back up your points. Be sure to choose at least one leader who Herodotus feels represents the Spartans well. Be sure to use parenthetical notes with quotations and specific facts that aren't widely known. **I only want information from Herodotus** because I am interested in his viewpoint. **Do not use other sources.** Summarize at the end of the paragraph.

*In the **second body paragraph**, discuss Athens, its system and its policy in detail. Use specific examples to back up your points. Be sure to choose at least one leader who Herodotus feels represents the Athenians well. **I only want information from Herodotus** for your information because I am interested in his viewpoint here. **Do not use other sources. If you do, you will have to start from scratch.** Be sure to use parenthetical notes with quotations and specific facts that aren't widely known. Summarize at the end of the paragraph.

*In your **concluding paragraph**, compare Herodotus's view of these two poleis and discuss how they are situated politically **at the end of the Persian War**. How has this war affected the political system and power structure of Greece as a whole? What has changed within Greece? What might these changes lead to in the future? Which side do you think Herodotus supported during the Peloponnesian War, during the early years of which he wrote and publicly read his Histories?

Schedule: **Notes on Books 7 due (by email) by Monday, December 23**

Notes on Book 8 are due (by email) by Monday, December 30

Notes on Book 9 are due by Monday, January 6

This essay is due Thursday, January 9

Revision is due by Tuesday, January 21 due to the holiday, but it would be great for you and me to have it in by Friday, January 17.

While you are reading most of Books 7-9, I have authorized some skipping if you wish, which is indicated on the note sheets.