



Unit 1 Overview



Guiding Questions: Why do we study the ancients? and How can we write successfully about them?

 Modules			
No.	Title	 Ideas	 Task
1	Rousseau’s “Social Contract” and our Class Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperation • Power • One and Many 	Narrative/Sequential: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is your social contract? • After reading an excerpt from Rousseau’s “Social Contract,” write your own contract that relates what you want from this class association and what you intend to contribute. Use at least one quote from the text.
2	“My Graduation Speech”: Character and Contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Character • Culture • Tradition 	Narrative/Sequential: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After researching various articles on the Visigoths and Athenians, write a letter to your future self that relates what values and traditions you want to be remembered for after you graduate.
3	The Meaning of Myth: Cupid and Psyche	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change • Fate • Myth 	Explanatory/Synthesis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why do we read myths? • After researching articles on mythology and reading <i>Cupid and Psyche</i>, write a review for younger students in which you explain important features of myths. Support your discussion with evidence from your research and the text.
4	Pericles’ Funeral Oration: a Representation of Athenian Democracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Character • Freedom • Responsibility 	Explanatory/Synthesis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What can we learn from Athenian Democracy? • After researching various sources (including Pericles’ <i>Funeral Oration</i>) on characteristics of Ancient Greece, write a poster paper (to go on a hall wall) in which you explain the important values of the Athenian republic.
5	The Power of Story: Menelaus and Proteus (from <i>The Odyssey</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change • Story • Truth 	Narrative/Sequential: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does learning the truth change who we are? • After reading an excerpt from <i>The Odyssey</i> by Homer about Menelaus’ encounter with Proteus, write a narrative in which you related how learning the truth about something changed your life.
6	Writing the Perfect Paragraph: Language and Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written Language • Structure • History 	Explanatory/Description: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What qualities characterize an ideal opening, body, and closing paragraph? • After reading model paragraphs from classic historians, write a perfect opening, body and closing paragraph that describes at least one of the models and addresses the question. Support your discussion with evidence from the texts.



Unit 1 Assessment



Assessment Task: After reading an excerpt from *The Republic*, write a letter to a younger person in which you describe Plato's view of human nature.



The Republic PLATO

Are people good because they want to be? Or are they good because they are afraid to be bad? To answer these questions let us pretend we can give both the good and the bad person the freedom and power to do whatever they please. Then in our imaginations we can see what they will do. I think the good person will be no different from the bad person, for he is really as selfish as the bad man. Only fear of the law makes him good. Let me tell you a story about a man who had such freedom.

People say that this man was a shepherd in the service of the king of Lydia. After a great rainstorm and an earthquake, the ground opened up where he was caring for sheep, and he went into the opening in the earth. The story goes on to say that he saw many wonderful things there, among which was a large bronze model of a horse with little doors on the side. When he looked in, he saw the body of a giant with a gold ring on its finger. He took the ring and left.

When the shepherds held their monthly meeting to report to the king about his flocks, he also attended, wearing the ring. While he was sitting there twisting the ring on his finger, he happened to turn it so that the stone faced his palm. When he did this, the story goes on, he became invisible. Those who sat around him could no longer see him. They spoke about him as if he were not there. He was amazed and twisted his ring once more. When he turned the stone out, he became visible again. He tested this many times, and found that the ring really possessed this power of making him invisible when he wanted. So with the help of this ring, he committed many crimes and took over the kingdom.

Now suppose we have two such rings. Let's give one to a good person and the other to an evil person. It is hard to believe that even a good man would stop himself from stealing and doing all kinds of other bad things, if he knew he would never get caught.