

## **Class Assignments for *Ask the Ancients* by Sylvia Gray**

### **[1] *Post-Reading Reflection***

While reading *Ask the Ancients*, thoughtfully pay attention to what the ancients have to say and your responses to them. After finishing the book, consider the following as you compose a response essay. Discuss two of the topics that particularly caught your attention. Whether you were amazed, entertained, offended, or otherwise affected, your essay should present those reactions and why you feel you reacted as you did. Be sure to cite specifics in your responses.

### **[2] *Working with Primary Sources***

This assignment is designed to provide students, who have completed reading *Ask the Ancients*, with a more in-depth exposure to the ancient authors cited in the book. The assignment requires the student to combine research, reflective reading, and personal response. Students will produce an essay and may also present their findings in an oral presentation to the class. The oral presentations give the whole class exposure to a number of ancient authors. Should teachers take the oral presentation route, we recommend that, if possible, only one student research a given author.

#### **To the student:**

Pick one of the ancient authors mentioned in *Ask the Ancients*, track down some of his or her writings, and read, in translation, fifteen pages or more of this author. Also, do a little research on the author. (Many writings in translation are easily accessible on the Internet.)

Based on your reading and research, construct an essay that addresses the following points:

- What you read (with proper citation) and who wrote it (include information about the ancient writer, too!)
- A brief summary
- A brief illustrative quotation. Cite the “chapter/verse” numbers rather than page numbers. (Latin students should give both the Latin and the English.)
- How the reading relates to the present (or if not, why not?)
- Your personal reaction

[These assignments are adapted from ones developed by *Ask the Ancients* author Sylvia Gray. Feel free to make copies and use with your own students.]