

SECOND WRITING ASSIGNMENT: SO YOU WANT TO GO TO A SYMPOSIUM, HUH?

Due: Friday, 3/9, by 11:59 pm.

Respond to the prompt below in approximately 1500 words (+/- 200 words).

Prompt: Working from our primary readings, create a persona and construct a guide that reflects a “code” for “gentlemanly” behavior at a symposium (“classy” might be a better description than “gentlemanly” here – it doesn’t need to be a gendered thing, though the majority of our texts do deal with men). Your code should account for the disparate sources and opinions and filter them through the lens of your chosen persona. ***Your arguments must be anchored in the primary texts.***

Some things to think about as you’re completing this assignment:

- Who are you writing as? An elite man? Elite woman? Lower class man? Lower class woman?
- Are you writing for someone of your same identity? Someone of a different identity?
- What kinds of things will your reader need to know? For example, if you’re writing for a lower-class man who wants to go to an upper-class party and blend in, what might be different from the parties he’s used to attending?
- If you’re writing for someone who doesn’t know these things, they will likely want to know *why* your advice matters. *Why* should they drink a certain amount or act a certain way? No one is going to follow your guide if they think it’s a bunch of arbitrary rules.
- What might they want to do to prepare before the symposium? Should they learn some poems? What kind of poems?
- The format/style/tone for this should be something more like a creative writing project. You are creating a guide for someone, so think in terms of a “how-to” blog post or Pinterest guide (but written by an ancient Greek). This will probably feel weird and uncomfortable if you’re used to writing academic essays, but one of the goals of this assignment is to get you exploring and playing with genre.

You should restrict yourself to the readings for this class (assigned readings and readings covered in lecture), so no works cited/bibliography is needed for this paper. Parenthetical in-text citations will be sufficient.

Examples of ways you could cite texts

Parentheses:

“If you’re going to blend in with the rest of the guests, you’ll need to know some of the poems that symposiasts like to perform at parties, including poems about mythology (PMG 884 – 887) and poems about drinking (Anacreon 356A-B).”

OR you can use footnotes to explain your text-based rationale:

“If you’re going to blend in with the rest of the guests, you’ll need to know some of the poems that symposiasts like to perform at parties, including poems about mythology¹ and poems about drinking.²”

¹ Some examples of poems about mythological figures include PMG 884 – 887.

² Although drinking shows up in poems by many different poets, Anacreon 356A and 356B are particularly good examples of this.

GRADING RUBRIC

	Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement	Poor
Use of the text as evidence (35%)	<i>You have carefully read and thought about the texts and you introduce specific examples in an effective and appropriate way</i>	<i>You demonstrate some engagement with the texts but you do not show a very deep understanding of it. You know what the reading said, but you have not fully engaged critically.</i>	<i>The texts are used in some sense, but you do not use them effectively or extensively</i>	<i>You do not use the actual texts in any meaningful way.</i>
	Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement	Poor
Creativity and immersion in the style and persona (30%)	<i>You have created a fictional setting for this piece that makes sense—the author and the addressee are clearly identified and thoughtfully constructed</i>	<i>You have thought about a fictional setting and personas, but they are not well-developed and you have not maintained the fictional conceit throughout.</i>	<i>You have not put much thought into the fictional personas and imagined setting. There is some thought put into the idea, but the fiction is poorly developed.</i>	<i>You have not written in any sort of fictional persona or setting.</i>
	Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement	Poor
Effective justification and support for your advice (30%)	<i>You explain what your advice is based on and why it matters in a symposium context. You have effectively integrated the texts and your chosen personas.</i>	<i>You somewhat justify your advice, but your arguments are incomplete and not thought out in the context of your chosen personas.</i>	<i>Your arguments are not well supported in a way that integrates the text and your fictional personas.</i>	<i>You do not support or contextualize your advice.</i>
	Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement	Poor
Grammar, Spelling, and Style (5%)	<i>Essay has been proofread and has very few grammatical errors; style is clear.</i>	<i>Some grammatical errors and stylistic failings, but not enough that it distracts from the reader’s ability to easily read your writing.</i>	<i>Many grammatical errors, such that it’s difficult for the reader to understand your meaning. Style needs improvement.</i>	<i>Paper has significant grammar and style issues that detract substantially from readability.</i>