

Nomen _____

Dies _____

Persuasive Writing Assignment

Pick a character from our textbook and write a **PERSUASIVE ARGUMENT** for why you think this is the most interesting character so far, why he or she is someone you would have liked to have been. You will not be able to persuade me *unless you support your argument with facts*.

1st) Pick a character from the list below—anyone except Metella who will be our example.

7th GRADE

Metella (can't use; she's the example)

Caecilius

Quintus

Clemens

Grumio

Syphax

Pantagathus

Celer

Melissa

Hermogenes

iudex

8th GRADE

Salvius

Rufilla

Volubilis

Bregans

Philus

Varica

Loquax

Anti-Loquax

Domitilla

Marcia

Pompeius Optatus, the man Salvius was staying with when the slave attacked him

2nd: On the back of this sheet, write some sort of a draft introductory statement, nothing formal. Just write it as if you were going to persuade a friend. (See the example on back.)

3rd: Find three examples IN LATIN, which you will ALSO translate into English, which supports your reason for finding this person interesting or someone you would have liked to have been. Also write these examples out on the back and number them to make sure you have 3 examples IN LATIN with your own ENGLISH translation.

4th: On the back of this sheet, write some sort of conclusion, summing up why you think this person is so interesting.

5th: ***Put it all together on a clean sheet of paper.*** Neatness counts. For the title, use the name of the character you have picked. Begin with your opening statement, follow that with sentences explaining your three examples both IN LATIN and in ENGLISH, then sum up your reasoning. You must have correct punctuation, spelling, capitalization, your heading, and your title and a line skipped after the title. You will turn in both this sheet with your notes/draft on the back as well as your clean sheet of paper.

See example on the back.

Metella

Some of you may think that Metella is the most boring character in the book, but I have decided that she has the best life, one that I would like to have.

First, she gets to relax all the time: *mater est in atrio. mater in atrio sedet.* “The mother is in the atrium. The mother is sitting in the atrium.” Isn’t that nice? She doesn’t have to work at all. She gets to sit in the room at the center of activity in the house, able to spy on Caecilius in his office as well as monitor the work of the slaves of the house.

Second, Metella gets to meet all of the visitors and friends in the household. That is, she is not hidden off in some back room, but is given a place of importance: *amicus Metellam salutat.* “The friend greets Metella.”

Third, Metella does not have to cook but has Grumio to cook for her. The only thing she has to do is to supervise the cooking and taste Grumio’s masterpieces: *cibus est paratus. Metella cibum gustat.* “The food is ready. Metella tastes the food.” How rough is that? She never has to dirty her hands nor clean up the dishes.

In the end, while others may find Metella rather dull the way she sits around all of the time in the atrium, I think her life sounds like quite an improvement over mine. I would gladly give up cooking and cleaning and all the rest!

(This, as you can see, is not very formal, but it is meant to persuade you and perhaps even get you to look at Metella in a new light. Can you persuade me and your fellow students to look at one of the other characters in a new light?)

DRAFT SPACE: Character: _____

draft opening sentence: _____

three examples in LATIN with English translations:

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

draft closing sentence: _____
