

Excerpts from Student Reflections on Composition Project, 2015-16

A. I was able to target weak areas that I had expressed as troublesome in the first part of the project. I was challenged significantly through maintaining the correct case, remembering vocabulary, and conjugating verbs to fit the requirements of the composition and the requirements of the sentence I was writing. I think my biggest success was with my storyline. I find it very entertaining and, at times, funny. My knowledge of ancient Roman culture was definitely enhanced.

B. During this project, I was challenged in two main ways. The first way I was challenged was in the area of time management...Additionally, during this project, I was challenged to think creatively...I always thought of learning culture as being separate from understanding the storyline, as if the fact that because the story is fiction, actual cultural facts could not be related to the capitulum. Having to incorporate culture into the storyline enhanced my understanding of the cultural material, as this task bridged the characters in the story with the nonfictional ancient Roman culture information.

C. I learned to double check my work, to not rush things, and that it is okay to admit when you're wrong and to ask for help when you're not sure of the answer.

D. I felt this project challenged me in practicing the various grammar constructions we have learned in class along with enlightened me as to how the Romans wrote and learned in and out of the classroom.

E. The basis of this project provided us with the opportunity to creatively capture any grasp of the Roman culture that we chose to. In this personal quest I realized how much I truly am captivated by Roman culture, and very well could influence me into attaining a classics minor.

F. Before writing in Latin, I only knew how each grammatical concept worked, but after writing this chapter I learned how they worked within the context of other Latin writing, which provided a whole new dimension of understanding.

G. The composition felt like a puzzle that had to be solved. I was challenged most when writing the story and attempting to have it be grammatically sound...I believe I succeed most in our meeting. A few times once my mistakes were brought to my attention I was able to correct them. This made me feel like I had a better understanding of how compositions work than I did prior to the meeting.

H. Overall this project has reinforced the work ethic needed in order to finish projects in any subject, such as facing your challenges early on and putting in time to achieve a finished sample. I learned especially from this project that the smoothest writing processes come from hard work being applied in the early stages of the timeline to ensure progress.

I. During the semester, it was easy for me to understand the grammar and identify things, but it was much harder for me to do it on my own. What I tried to do was use my notes to help me form and put together the words with correct grammar to the best of my ability. I struggled with endings the most, but I was good with using words I had learned in class and with infinitives. Even though I still struggled trying to fix my story, what I learned was how hard it is to create your own story in Latin, but I also learned how to make corrections to my story and I understood what I needed to fix and why.

J. During our meeting we discussed numerous aspects of this project that I needed to work on, but it was refreshing to realize that I made a lot of the same mistakes instead of a collection of many mistakes... I also enjoyed the meeting because it was a refreshing motivation to continue on with the project. I became more excited about the end result and want to put my best effort into it.

K. This was a difficult piece to write. I have never been forced to write this much in Latin before. It really pushed me out of my comfort zone. Reading and identifying takes less mental strength than having to come up with the proper forms, words, cases (and everything else) out of thin air. I enjoyed the struggle though.