

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# ATHENS OR SPARTA: WHICH IS THE SUPERIOR CITY- STATE?



## **Steps:**

1. Research topic and take notes.
2. Read and study persuasive writing prompt carefully.
3. Analyze your research/notes and decide which city-state is superior. Write your opinion statement.
4. Complete the outline/graphic organizer.
5. Familiarize yourself with the expectations for writing: formatting guidelines, grading rubric, and transitions.
6. Write a rough draft using google docs.
7. Revise and edit.
8. Type a final draft. Revise and edit again if necessary.
9. Turn in your completed, typed essay.

**We will be working together on these steps slowly and carefully, however, most of the work of this project will be done at HOME.**

**STEP 1: RESEARCH & TAKE**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Athens</b>	<b>Sparta</b>
Government		
Treatment of Non-Citizens		
Quality of Life		
Culture: Music, art, literature, dance, religion, etc.		

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Athens</b>	<b>Sparta</b>
Slaves or Workers		
Farming		
Military		
Education		
Differences between Males & Females		

## Persuasive Writing Prompt

### Situation

You are living with your family in ancient Greece in the city-state of either Athens or Sparta. (You choose). You have a relative who lives in another city-state and is thinking of relocating to either Athens or Sparta. This relative has written a letter to you asking your opinion on which city-state (Athens or Sparta) would be the best place to relocate and why.

### Question

Which city state in ancient Greece is the superior place for your relative to live: Athens or Sparta? Consider the type of person your relative is. Is your relative old or young? Male or female? An artist or a warrior? The city-state you recommend should suit his or her needs.

### Prompt

Write a five-paragraph persuasive essay in the form of a letter explaining why Athens or Sparta is the most superior city-state in which your relative should live. Give examples that support your argument in the form of **facts** from your research. Discuss issues such as **government, treatment of non-citizens, quality of life, culture, education, farming, military**, the roles of **males and females**, etc.

### STEP 3: ANALYZE

Write your Statement of Opinion about which city-state is the superior place to move:

---

### STEP 4: OUTLINE

#### INTRODUCTION

**Salutation & Intro:** How will you greet your relative?

**Background:** Begin your letter with personal questions regarding your relative and comments about your daily life in Ancient Greece.

**Thesis:** What is your essay about? State your opinion regarding which city-state to move to.

CONCLUSION: You've done all your research, what have you learned? "So What!?!?"

**Restate Thesis:** In new words

**Summarize Main Points:** Remind your relative about the most important reasons to move to Athens or Sparta.

**Homerun Sentence:** End your letter with a provocative question or statement.

**Closing:**

FIRST BODY PARAGRAPH

**Topic Sentence:** The first sentence of your first paragraph should be your counter argument.

*Although some Greeks may think that \_\_\_\_\_ is a better place to live, clearly it is not!*

**Details:** *For example. . .*

**Support:** *This shows that. . .*

## SECOND BODY PARAGRAPH

**Topic Sentence:** State second main reason:

**Details:** *For instance. . .*

**Support:** *This illustrates that. . .*

## THIRD BODY PARAGRAPH

**Topic Sentence:** State last and strongest reason.

**Details:** *For instance . . .*

**SUPPORT:** *This demonstrates that. . .*

## STEP 5: WRITING EXPECTATIONS

### Formatting Guidelines:

- Your essay must be typed, and no less than one-and-a-half pages, and no more than three pages in length.
- Use only 12-point Times New-Roman font
- Include a salutation, not a title or a heading.
- Include a closing with your actual name in real life.
- Double-space and use only black ink.
- Indent paragraphs and do not put extra lines between them.

### Other Writing Tips:

- Avoid sentences which start with: and, so, because, also, then.
- Use a thesaurus to replace boring or over used words with more descriptive, precise words.
- Be as specific as possible and do not use slang (thing, cool, gunna, guy, etc.)
- Use the pronouns you and I sparingly. Be more objective and less personal.

## Grading Rubric:

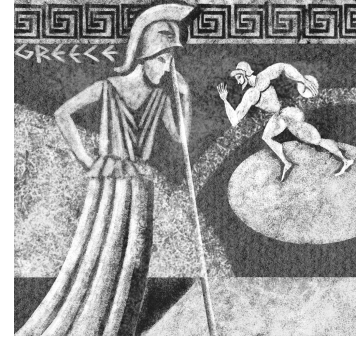
SCORE	DESCRIPTION
4	Attention-grabbing hook, relevant background information, opinion is clear, precise/concrete language engages the reader, transition words add to the flow of essay, reasons are stated clearly and backed up with excellent evidence and accurate facts, counter arguments are valid and addressed accordingly, conclusion clearly and effectively summarizes reasons and restates the author's opinion, 6 <sup>th</sup> grade grammar and conventions with no errors. Wow!
3	Adequate hook, background information present, opinion present, precise/concrete language present, transition words present, reasons present and backed up with adequate evidence, counter arguments are present and addressed, conclusion clearly summarizes reasons and restates the author's opinion, 6 <sup>th</sup> grade grammar and conventions with few errors. Good
2	Hook may be unrelated or missing, background information lacking, opinion not clear, lack of precise/concrete language, transition words lacking, reasons lacking or weak and may not be supported with relevant evidence, counter arguments are confusing or not present, may not be clearly addressed, conclusion partially summarizes reasons, author's opinion missing or unclear, 6 <sup>th</sup> grade grammar, spelling, and punctuations are present and may be distracting to the reader. Needs some work.
1	Hook missing or dull, opinion missing or confusing, omitting information, body paragraphs may be unorganized with limited details, examples, precise/concrete language/transitions, little or no evidence or reasons, summary inconclusive, many grammar & spelling errors present. Needs <b>a lot</b> of work.



# Transitions

Illustration	Thus, for example, for instance, namely, to illustrate, in other words, in particular, specifically, such as.
Contrast	On the contrary, contrarily, notwithstanding, but, however, nevertheless, in spite of, in contrast, yet, on one hand, on the other hand, rather, or, nor, conversely, at the same time, while this may be true.
Addition	And, in addition to, furthermore, moreover, besides, than, too, also, both-and, another, equally important, first, second, etc., again, further, last, finally, not only-but also, as well as, in the second place, next, likewise, similarly, in fact, as a result, consequently, in the same way, for example, for instance, however, thus, therefore, otherwise.
Time	After, afterward, before, then, once, next, last, at last, at length, first, second, etc., at first, formerly, rarely, usually, another, finally, soon, meanwhile, at the same time, for a minute, hour, day, etc., during the morning, day, week, etc., most important, later, ordinarily, to begin with, afterwards, generally, in order to, subsequently, previously, in the meantime, immediately, eventually, concurrently, simultaneously.
Space	At the left, at the right, in the center, on the side, along the edge, on top, below, beneath, under, around, above, over, straight ahead, at the top, at the bottom, surrounding, opposite, at the rear, at the front, in front of, beside, behind, next to, nearby, in the distance, beyond, in the forefront, in the foreground, within sight, out of sight, across, under, nearer, adjacent, in the background
Concession	Although, at any rate, at least, still, thought, even though, granted that, while it may be true, in spite of, of course.
Similarity Of Comparison	Similarly, likewise, in like fashion, in like manner, analogous to.
Emphasis	Above all, indeed, truly, of course, certainly, surely, in fact, really, in truth, again, besides, also, furthermore, in addition.
Details	Specifically, especially, in particular, to explain, to list, to enumerate, in detail, namely, including.
Examples	For example, for instance, to illustrate, thus, in other words, as an illustration, in particular.
Consequence Or Result	So that, with the result that, thus, consequently, hence, accordingly, for this reason, therefore, so, because, since, due to, as a result, in other words, then.
Summary	Therefore, finally, consequently, thus, in short, in conclusion, in brief, as a result, accordingly.
Suggestion	For this purpose, to this end, with this in mind, with this purpose in mind, therefore.

## STEP 6: EDITING & REVISING



### Directions:

1. Follow the instructions and/or answer the questions.
2. *Edit* your essay with colored pencils and highlighters.
3. When you are done editing, begin *revising*.

Edit = identify errors

Revise = make necessary changes

<b>Introduction Paragraph</b>	
1. <b>Greeting:</b> Circle it and be sure it is punctuated properly.	
2. <b>Hook:</b> HIGHLIGHT the Greeting and Intro in any color.	
3. <b>Background:</b> Does the essay offer relevant and interesting background information?	
4. <b>Thesis:</b> UNDERLINE the thesis sentence in RED	
5. <b>Thesis:</b> Did the author clearly state his/her opinion about where to move?	
<b>Body Paragraphs</b>	
6. <b>Topic Sentence:</b> Underline each topic sentence of each body paragraph in GREEN.	
7. <b>Topic Sentence:</b> Does each topic sentence clearly state a reason?	
8. <b>Details:</b> NUMBER facts in each paragraph which support the topic	
9. <b>Counter Argument:</b> HIGHLIGHT it	
10. <b>Counter Argument:</b> Does it address the opposing side's concern?	
11. <b>Counter Argument:</b> Does the author explain why the other side is wrong and give support for why he/she is correct?	
12. <b>Conclusion:</b> For each body paragraph, does the author provide a conclusion ( <i>this shows that</i> )?	
13. <b>Transition Words:</b> CIRCLE all the transition words in BLUE.	
14. Did the author of the essay <i>convince</i> you that his/her side is correct?	
<b>Concluding Paragraph</b>	
15. <b>Restate Thesis:</b> Underline the restated thesis in RED.	
16. <b>Restate Thesis:</b> Is it restated in <i>different</i> words than in the first paragraph?	
17. <b>Summarize Reasons:</b> NUMBER all three in BLUE	
18. <b>Summarize Reasons:</b> Did the author summarize all the main points—the reasons?	
19. <b>Homerun Sentence:</b> HIGHLIGHT it any color.	
20. <b>Closing:</b> Circle it and be sure it is punctuated properly.	
<b>Writing Conventions</b>	
21. <b>Spelling:</b> CIRCLE any errors in ORANGE.	
22. <b>Punctuation:</b> CIRCLE any errors in ORANGE.	
23. <b>Grammar:</b> CIRCLE any errors in ORANGE	