

Reading & Discussion Questions – Greek Primary Sources (Plato, Aristophanes, Pericles)

Directions: Please answer the following questions in a typed document following MLA formatting. On time submission = printed document submitted in class on the due date AND submission to Turnitin.com by class time.

From *Pericles' Funeral Oration*

1. According to Pericles, what precisely makes Athens great and how does this compare to other city-states?
2. What does Pericles tell us about equality of opportunity in Athens?
3. What are the benefits of the Athenian system of government?
4. What does Pericles tell us about Athens' view of military security?
5. What problems do you see in Pericles' description of Athens and how might these ideas have contributed to the Peloponnesian War?

From “The Clouds” & *The Republic* excerpts

1. If Aristophanes' play is meant to condemn the state of education in Athens, what are some of the potential criticisms you can infer from the dialogue between Socrates and Strepsiades?
2. Plato's “Allegory of the Cave” is meant to represent the 3 stages of education: imagination, cognitive thought (knowledge), and understanding. How is each stage represented in the metaphor?
3. According to Plato, what are the attributes that distinguish a philosopher-king from another kind of ruler? In other words, what qualities must the philosopher-king possess and what qualities should be avoided?