

## *Veni, Vidi, Scripsi: Ancient Graffiti in the Latin Classroom*

This workshop will explore the different strategies in using ancient graffiti to teach grammar, vocabulary, culture, and critical thinking. Participants will discuss the Ancient Graffiti Project and its new website as a companion in the Latin classroom. There will also be an open discussion for teachers to share their own strategies, experiences, and ideas about teaching ancient graffiti.

As Latin teachers, we are constantly asked questions regarding the relevance of the subject we teach. The usual stock answers revolve around the SAT, the possibility of going to medical or law school, or how it allows one to learn other languages more easily. This, however, isn't enough to keep students engaged anymore. It is cultural relevance that appears to be the answer. Students are more willing to engage when they can relate to the concept being taught. But how can students connect their lives to Roman lives? The answer: ancient graffiti.

The Ancient Graffiti Project collects graffiti from Herculaneum and Pompeii and displays its findings online, making the collection accessible to the public. The project provides an opportunity for students to view the Romans not taught in textbooks or seen in works by Caesar, Cicero, or Virgil. Graffiti encourages a glimpse into the common man's life that helps students better understand the Romans. Students who use ancient graffiti begin to realize that the Romans are not so different from themselves. It is here that the learning really begins.