

Writing and Culture in the Latin Classroom

Many schools ask teachers to incorporate writing in the classroom. This additional responsibility may be a challenge for foreign language teachers who already have a full curriculum. This workshop seeks to encourage writing with a focus on reinforcing and deepening students' understanding of cultural topics is a viable strategy. The Cambridge Latin Course provides engaging readings on ancient Pompeian/Roman culture topics. These readings are full of interesting facts about Roman life and culture that may be used in a variety of writing tasks. When students apply this knowledge by writing, it helps to reinforce their understanding of the material read. Teachers may also reinforce writing skills requested by their English department in these writing assignments.

High school Latin I and II teachers and possibly middle school teachers would find this helpful, especially if their schools promote writing across the curriculum. The presentation will use the Cambridge Latin Course, but the ideas may be applied to other texts.

Participants will develop skills in creating and grading a variety of written assignments for the Latin classroom. Participants will be given a list of interesting prompts for a variety of writing forms. Writing rubrics will also be presented. Participants will be able to use prompts and rubrics presented in the workshop in their own classrooms.

The presenter will introduce participants to a variety of prompts and rubrics for writing engaging pieces to reinforce students' understanding of cultural readings in the Cambridge Latin Course. Participants will model student learning by reading a short piece on a Roman culture topic from the Cambridge Latin Course. The presenter will model a brief discussion about the reading with students. Participants will then be asked to write on a prompt with a particular rubric. Participants will write a short piece on the reading following the rubric. Participants will be asked to share their writing and discuss their experience with the writing and the rubric.

Participants will then discuss the list of prompts and rubrics for the Cambridge Latin Course cultural readings. Time permitting, participants will discuss other ideas for writing in the Latin classroom, such as ACE short answer responses that use Latin text in preparation for writing A.P. style essays. The presenter's intent is for a lively exchange of ideas for writing in the Latin classroom.