**Roman Interview Project**

Your assignment for this project will be done in groups of two. You and your partner must choose a specific person from Roman society that you would like to research. A maximum of two groups to each Roman character will be set in place so presentations are diverse. The format for presenting your research will be in a role playing interview.

From the list below each student will choose five elements of society (*three from the major content area and two from the minor content areas*). As individuals you will be required to research the topics that you have mutually agreed upon. Individually you will come up with both answers and questions and write these down in script form. Your partner will help you by being the interview host asking you the questions and you will be the character answering the questions.

You will present your information in two ways.

1. A clearly handwritten script or computer typed copy must be written out prior to presentation and handed in for the teacher to follow along.
2. Role playing a fake interview with your partner the questions and answers you have researched.

*(Interview with be presented live in front of the class or you have the option of making a video.*

*If you choose to make a video this must be done on your own time.)*

The **bolded** questions under each topic need to be answered and will be evaluated. Under the bolded main question are questions to help you get the brain juices flowing if you need help. Feel free to make your own questions and put your own humor and creative style into this project. Highlight what you know already, what new research you find, and what you think is important.

Answer the questions from the perspective of the character you have chosen. One person will be the reporter/host interviewing and asking questions while the second person will be the character from Roman society you have chosen. This is your chance to communicate what you have learned with the class so everyone learns the different roles of society in a fun way. Don’t be afraid to add props or dress up if you want a 4.

Class in society

* **Emperor or Emperor’s wife**
* **Patrician** *male or female*(wealthy influential landowning families)
* **Senators** (Served in the Senate and governed Rome)
* **Equestrians** (Wealthy property owner who chose business over politics)
* **Plebeians** *male or female* (Working class who worked for their living at jobs such as artisans, craftsmen, bakers, etc.)
* **Freedpeople** (Slaves who had either been given their freedom or had paid for their freedom)
* **Slaves** (Generally prisoners of war but sometimes abandoned children who were owned by their master)
* **Soldier** (A Roman citizen who fought in the army)
* **Gladiator** (Typically a slave with certain privileges)

Elements of Society Questions

* **Religion**
* **What is your religion and how does it affect your life in Roman society?**

How does it influence your life? Does it make you fit in or ostracize you? What benefits do you get from your religion? Can anyone join your religion or is there a process/hierarchy to getting in?

* **Family life**
* **How is the family structure organized in your family? Is it a matriarch or patriarch?**

Who makes the major decisions? Who handles the finances? How many people live in your family house? If you disagree with your oldest male family member what might happen to you? Why?

* **Technology**
* **How does the current technology affect your life? What is it?**

How does it make your life easier? How does it speed up the process? Who invented this technology? Does this technology make it cheaper to make or buy? Will this technology positively or negatively affect your children?

* **Entertainment**
* **What do you do for entertainment and fun?**

Where do you have to go for this entertainment? Is it costly, do you need special privileges to get in, if so why or why not? What class of people do you associate with when you hang out? Do you associate or socialize with people from other classes? Do you play sports or watch sports, if so what are they?

* **Job** / **Vocation**
* **How do you make money? What type of work do you do?**

Is it physical back breaking work or academic book work? Do you have to have an education or training? Do you get special privileges from your job if so what? Do you make the rules so you’re the boss (of who)? Or are you the worker and have to listen to other people and do what you’re told?

* **Language**/**Languages**
* **How many languages do you speak, what are they?**

What language is your mother tongue that you grew up speaking the most? Does that mean your family came from a region that was taken over by Romans? If so where? If you were to go to another part of the country would they understand you? Does your language have a written dialect or is it oral?

* **Food**
* **What type of food do you eat? What type of food do you grow?**

-Is food expensive or cheap? If it is cheap does that mean you can’t afford it (from lower social class) or you’re just on a budget? Is meat expensive? What is a special treat?

- Who prepares/cooks your food, you or someone else? Does this imply your social class and wealth?

-Do you grow your own plants and raise your own livestock for food? Do you have access to all different types of food or only certain things?

* **Traditions** / **Celebrations**
* **Does your family have any family celebrations or traditions?**

What celebrations or traditions does your family celebrate? Are they cultural traditions? Do you get holidays from work to celebrate? Can you afford it?

* **Arts**
* **Are you an inventor or artist or do you just buy and enjoy it?**

Do you get paid or do you pay other people for artwork? Do you play sports? What types of artwork do you have in your house? Is it expensive artwork or just simple and homemade?

* **Education**
* **Do you know how to read or write? Did you go to school?**

Where did you go to school? For how long? Was your education expensive? Did you have private tutors? Were you forced to go to school by the law or was it your parent’s decision? If you wanted to be in politics or be important did you need an education? What were some of the subjects you were taught? Did you apprentice under someone? What did you learn when you apprenticed with them and how long did you work for them?

* **Geography** / **Where did they live**
* **What part of the Roman Empire did you live? Was it in a city or in the country?**

Did that affect what your job was? What was the climate like? What were the seasons? Agriculturally what type of plants and animals did the geography of the area you live support? Did that effect what you had access to for eating food? Did you have access to drinking water?

* **Government** / **Laws**
* **What type of government system is in place? Who is currently in power?**

From your characters perspective are they a good ruler or bad, why? Do they make you pay taxes? Do you benefit from the current government/ruler? Does the current government benefit the poor or rich? Does the current government make people fight and go to war? Does that benefit you positively or negatively?

* **Clothing** / **Dress**
* **What social class are you from and does that effect what you wear?**

What gender are you and does that effect what you wear? What are you wearing right now? What do you wear when you go to sleep? What kind of footwear do you wear?

* **Health**
* **Do you have access to person hygiene or healthcare?**

Are you healthy or sick? If you are sick who takes care of you and who pays the bill? Do you get free health care or do you have to pay? Is there a hospital you can go to? Do you have access to clean fresh drinking water or cleaning facilities? What kind of infrastructure does the city of Rome (if you lived in Rome) have set up to get rid of sewage and potential waste that carries diseases? Do you have access to medicine or herbal remedies?

* **Housing**
* **What kind of dwelling do you live in? Does this imply your social status?**

How many people live in it? How many rooms were in your house? (is it small or big)? What is the main function of your house? Is your house decorated or can you afford that? What kinds of art or décor do you have? What is your house made of? Is this safe? When it gets cold in your house can you turn the heat on?