**Classical Historian Teacher Newsletter**

**Week 22**

Dear Teachers of the Classical Historian,

**Teaching and Classroom Management Tip 22**

“It’s all about timing.” When hitchhiking in Turkey with my wife in 1994, every once in a while the driver would be a speedster. On one occasion, the driver sped 90 – 100 mph in a 25 mph zone. To pass a car in front, he would dangerously veer to the left side of the street, head into oncoming traffic, and at the last moment, pass the car and go back on the right side of the street. Then, he looked at my wife and me and said, “Timing.”

At week 22 out of a 30-week year, the teacher should assess where the students are, in terms of the material planned for the year. Is there any catching up to do? Should some things be skipped? Is there extra time to spend on one unit?

Also, I strongly recommend an end-of-the year presentation. Each student should choose one of the open-ended questions from the year, prepare a 3-10-minute talk, prepare a map of the area of the talk, and a primary source document, and begin practicing in class. The talk should be “overlearned” and not memorized. To overlearn something means to know it so well one does not need notes. This is accomplished by practicing. Once students have completed the presentation, they should be practicing every time the class meets.

The presentation is an argument the student is making by answering the open-ended question. In it, the student makes his most compelling arguments. He presents the map he made by explaining it to his audience. Then, he reads out loud an excerpt of the primary source document. Presenting an argument will help the student learn the skill of public speaking and it will make the student study history.

**Classical Historian Parent Newsletter**

Week Twenty-Two:

A very strong recommendation from The Classical Historian is to have a final, end-of-the-year presentation. Each student should choose one of the open-ended questions from the year, prepare a 3-10-minute talk, prepare a map of the area of the talk, and a primary source document, and begin practicing in class. The talk should be “overlearned” and not memorized. To overlearn something means to know it so well one does not need notes. This is accomplished by practicing. Once students have completed the presentation, they should be practicing every time the class meets.

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Ask your teacher if he is planning on having an end-of-the-year presentation and if it will be during the last class or if it will be at another time.

**Junior High Ancient Civilizations**

**Student of the Week:**

**History**

Students discussed Ancient China, the Xia and Shang Dynasties. They began learning about the Qin and Han Dynasties.

**History Skills Learned or Practiced in Class**

Students had a Socratic discussion and wrote a reflection. They read a primary source and analyzed it.

**Homework**

1. Study the Grammar for Week Twenty-Two.

2. Direct students to answer questions in the Open-Ended History question.

**Junior High Medieval Civilizations**

**Student of the Week:**

**History**

Students studied the Crusades, reading a primary source from Pope Urban II. Students began studying about liberty, Muslims, and Jews.

**History Skills Learned or Practiced in Class**

Students took a quiz based on what they learned and read out loud. Students practiced vocabulary words. Students read and analyzed a primary source document.

**Homework**

1. **Study the Grammar for all Medieval Europe lessons for next week’s 5-question quiz.**
2. **Complete all activities for lesson 45 and answer #10 for lesson 46.**

**Junior High American History *The Story of Liberty***

**Student of the Week:**

**History**

Students took a test on Unit VII The Beginning of Big Government.

**History Skills Learned or Practiced in Class**

Students took a multiple-choice test and wrote an in-class essay.

**Homework**

1. Read chapters 44 and 45 and complete all questions.

2. Study the grammar for 44 and 45 for next week’s quiz.

**High School American History**

**Student of the Week:**

**History**

Students discussed “The Roaring Twenties” and began studying The New Deal.

**History Skills Learned or Practiced in Class**

Students had a Socratic discussion and wrote a reflection piece.

**Homework**

1. Read Chapter 16 of *A Patriot’s History of the United States*.

2. Prepare for the Socratic Discussion.

3. Choose ten words to define.

**High School World History**

**Student of the Week:**

**History**

Students discussed classical liberalism and nationalism.

**History Skills Learned or Practiced in Class**

Students had a Socratic discussion. They practiced writing in history. They read a primary source and discussed it in class.

**Homework**

1. Read chapter 14 of Western Civilization.
2. Answer the Focus Questions for chapter 14.

3. Answer the open-ended questions for chapter 14.

**Government and Economics**

**Student of the Week:**

**Academics**

After reviewing the homework and having a Socratic discussion on the minimum wage, students learned about the stock market.

**Homework**

1. Read Book IV of Butler’s Condensed Wealth of Nations. Summarize it.

2. Answer the study questions from lessons 13 and 14.

3. Prepare for the Socratic discussion.

Socratic Discussion Open-Ended Question

Is a College Education Worth It?