

## AP Euro Summer Assignment

**Goal:** My goal for this assignment is to gauge your ability to analyze, interpret, draw conclusions, and to research history. Don't worry, it sounds worse than it is.

Below are links to three ancient Roman Legends. These stories can give great insight to some of the greatest questions in Roman history. You will attempt to answer some of these questions. But please be aware that some of the questions you are going to attempt to answer require more attention than a few hours over the summer. I am not expecting you to answer "what was most responsible for Roman decline" better than professional historians in a single summer. I am more interested in your ability to make observations, draw conclusions, and use them to give your best guess at really hard questions, and then ultimately communicate to someone your unique perspective.

**Directions:** Read each question I have listed. Perhaps you have a question about Rome that is not listed, you can include that in the list if you wish. You are going to read each legend and try to answer the questions using the legends IN ADDITION to a bit of research.

### Questions

- What do Romans value most?
- What is the cultural value that is most responsible for Rome's rise to greatness/empire?
- What was most responsible for Rome's decline?
- What was most responsible for the *Pax Romana*?
- Why was their military so successful?
- Why did they turn from a Republic to an Empire?

**Task:** Once you have thought about the questions attempt to answer THREE of them (1 of your own is fine) You will answer these questions using two tools, the **legends and research**. "Mr. Mohler, how can a legend formulated at the beginning of a culture, tell us about its decline?" That's a fine question. You will find out when we start school. But for now, give it your best attempt.

### What is expected:

- For each question use an observation from one of the legends
  - o EXAMPLE: "Horatius volunteered to defend the bridge from the invading army"
- Then after you have your observation, tell me how this helps to answer the question
  - o EXAMPLE: "Horatius volunteering to stop an entire army, something that would guarantee his death, shows that bravery and selflessness were highly valued in the Roman army. It is bravery and selflessness that was most influential in their success"
- After you have drawn a conclusion and related it to the question, now you are going to find TWO pieces of evidence, that back up your conclusion. To keep it simple, let's just use Google Scholar searches for your research.
- Briefly explain two historical facts and defend your assertion by connecting the facts to the question. Would encourage you to do enough research to surprise me, but not too much to make this assignment take longer than 2-5 hours.

### Links:

Horatius at the Bridge <http://www.mainlesson.com/display.php?author=baldwin&book=fifty&story=horatius>

The Legend of Cincinnatus <http://www.mainlesson.com/display.php?author=baldwin&book=fifty&story=cincinnatus>

The Legend of Romulus and Remus <http://www.crystalinks.com/romulus.html>