

WRITE A SCRIPT!



Worksheet for student groups

Your assignment is to write a short script of an interview with a famous athlete from ancient Greece.

PART ONE

Before writing your script...

- *Read the athlete's story that your teacher has assigned*
- *Discuss the story to make sure everyone in the group understands it.*

Working as a group, answer the following questions in the space provided. (You can write on the back of the page if necessary).

1. **Where** in Olympia will your interview be occurring? For example, try to fill in the blanks: "I'm [name] of [home city], and I'm standing outside the [place in Olympia]...."
2. **When** is your interview occurring? Is it before or after the competition? After which specific victory (or defeat) are you interviewing this athlete? Is this the beginning or the end of his career? What year is it?
3. How does your athlete like staying in Olympia? How is it different than his home city?
4. Interviewers sometimes flatter their subjects (saying nice things about people may encourage them to loosen up and talk more freely). For example, try to fill in the blanks: "You have been called the greatest [insert athlete's event]...."; "People are saying that you [insert something flattering about the athlete]...."

5. After buttering up their subjects, however, interviewers may sometimes ask them difficult or uncomfortable questions. Has your athlete been the subject of any gossip or controversy?

6. If the interview is occurring after a competition, develop some questions that will bring out the details of a specific event. For example, if your athlete was a runner, you might ask him to describe the moment in the race he took the lead. If the interview is to take place before a competition, ask the athlete about his preparation or about the preparation of his competitors. Does he think he has a good chance of winning? Why or why not?

7. Ask your athlete what it means to him to compete in the Olympic Games. Why is he there? What honor does he hope to achieve? What would he like the audience to get from the experience of watching the Games?

8. You will be presenting this interview to other students who have not read about your athlete. Be sure to present them with interesting background information. (You could work this background information into the question-and-answer session, or you could work it into the introduction: "We're speaking today with [athlete], who has become known for his exploits in the boxing ring, where he has so far won the olive wreath three times, and is favored to win a fourth today.")

PART II

Now you are ready to write your script. If you aren't using a computer to type the script, or if you don't have use of a copy machine, designate two students (who aren't going to perform the parts of athlete or interviewer) to write a copy of your script.

The script doesn't have to be in the same order as the questions above (in fact, it probably won't be). It might look something like this:

Interviewer: Is this your first time in Olympia, Milo of Kroton?

Milo of Kroton: Are you kidding? The 66th Olympiad is my fifth time. The other four times I won first prize, and I am confident I will win again.

Interviewer: I hear that you're a follower of the philosopher, Pythagoras. Tell us why you are interested in his ideas.

It's ok to put in some humor, just as long as your interview shows the audience some of the beliefs and values that were important to the ancient Greek Olympics. Your teacher has told you about some of these beliefs and values (such as honoring the gods, for example), and you've just seen how some athletes were known for their interest in philosophical teachings.

