

Classics Project



WORKSHOP 4: HOW-TO: PLAN, BIBLIOGRAPHY AND ABSTRACT

What do you need to do



- **Coursework**
- 1 – A project plan: draft structure, abstract and bibliography (equivalent of 1,500 words) 30%

The ABSTRACT



What is an abstract?



- An abstract is a **short** summary of your **proposed** research.
- It does not have to be fancy... just tell the reader what your work is about and what your main argument is.
- You may also want to use the abstract to place yourself in the relevant scholarship, i.e. explain where you are coming from.

Why is an abstract important?

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Roman satire

Daniel M. Hooley.

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Description:
This text is a compact and critically up-to-date introduction to Roman satire. It examines the development of the genre and focuses particularly on the literary and social functionality of satire. This book considers why men of learning and position adopted this 'low' mode of expression, why satire was important to the Romans, and why it still matters. Designed for student readers, it presumes no specialized knowledge, yet takes account of the most recent critical approaches. The text presents each of the major practitioners of verse satire - Horace, Persius, and Juvenal, and their forebear Lucilius - in the context of the social milieux in which they wrote. It includes comparative and intertextual discussion of different satirists, including those of the Menippean tradition.

BIC Classification: CS
Dewey Decimal Classification: 877.0109

Done

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Abstract from Hooley 2008



- This text is a compact and critically up-to-date introduction to Roman satire. It examines the development of the genre and focuses particularly on the literary and social functionality of satire. This book considers why men of learning and position adopted this 'low' mode of expression, why satire was important to the Romans, and why it still matters. Designed for student readers, it presumes no specialized knowledge, yet takes account of the most recent critical approaches. The text presents each of the major practitioners of verse satire - Horace, Persius, and Juvenal, and their forebear Lucilius - in the context of the social milieux in which they wrote. It includes comparative and intertextual discussion of different satirists, including those of the Menippean tradition.

And what exactly should I do?



1. Write a brief summary of your proposed research.
2. Make sure that you include your main argument (or what you expect your main argument to be)
3. You might want to include your position in scholarship on the subject of your research.
4. It should not be more than **250 words long**. (we have used 61 words on this slide...)

The BIBLIOGRAPHY



What is a bibliography?



- A bibliography submitted at the beginning of a period of research is a bibliography of the materials (primary and secondary) that you **expect** to use.
- It **will** change over the course of your work.
- It's there to show that you have done the necessary **preparation** to proceed with your project.

But how do I know what I am going to use?



- What are the primary sources (literary, epigraphical, papyrological, iconographical, archaeological) that you have already identified?
- What are the main pieces of scholarship that you have already read or identified as necessary reading?

So what do I put in?



- You need to divide your bibliography into two sections: one for primary sources and one for scholarship.
- Remember to include translation details if you know them.
- You should have at least 15 items (books or articles) in the part of your bibliography on scholarship.

How should a bibliography look?



- Follow the guidelines given in the Classics Reference Handbook.
- If you don't have one, then please put your hand up now!!

The DRAFT STRUCTURE



What is a DRAFT Structure?



- A DRAFT structure is a preliminary plan of what the finished product might look like.
- You may use a bullet point structure if you find it helpful
- If so, each bullet point should have an explanatory paragraph (or two, for main chapters) and possibly references to main primary and secondary sources you expect to use.

Example: Step 1: The main parts/sections



Short note: Ov. Met. 4

- Introduction
- Section 1: Close reading focussed on meter
- Section 2: Outcome of close reading, including wider implications
- Conclusion

Example: Step 2: Providing more detail



Short note: Ov. Met. 4

- Introduction
 - Intention of piece
 - Scholarly background
 - Text and translation
- Section 1: Close reading focussed on meter
- Section 2: Outcome of close reading, including wider implications
- Conclusion
 - Immediate results
 - Further avenues of research

Example: Step 3: Providing the main argument in each main section



Short note: Ov. Met. 4

- Introduction
 - Intention of piece
 - Scholarly background
 - Text and translation
- Section 1: Close reading focussed on meter

The first section studies the text closely, focussing on value judgement expressed about the Minyan daughters and the back-and-forth structure in which these appear.
- Section 2: Outcome of close reading, including wider implications

The second section seeks to explain this phenomenon in the context of literary genre and argues that Ovid invokes patterns of elegiac metre to extend the attention the reader pays to the moral and religious dilemma of the characters.
- Conclusion
 - Immediate results
 - Further avenues of research

But I have no idea what I am actually going to write...



- Don't worry.
- The draft structure is not there to lock you down.
- If you change your mind or your research leads you elsewhere then that's just the nature of the game.
- The draft structure is there to help you predict and plan your work.

But I might change my mind later on...



- That is OK.
- In fact you probably will. And it might be more worrying if you don't.
- Research is a living organism. It grows and walks into roads that you might not have expected and that's where the fun really starts.

And why do I have to do all of this?



- It is a sure way of getting started on your research.
- This gives you the opportunity for early feedback on your argument and ideas.

TASK for next workshop



TASK for next workshop



- **Prepare a 2-minute presentation to your group on your title and proposed research**