

Essay on *Spartacus* or *Gladiator*. Write approximately 1,500 words on one of the following topics:

How does Stanley Kubrick portray gladiatorial combat in *Spartacus*, and why do you think he portrays it in the way he does? To what extent is his portrayal consistent with what we know from ancient sources and modern scholarship?

How does Ridley Scott portray the emperors Marcus Aurelius and Commodus in *Gladiator*, and why do you think he portrays them in the ways he does? To what extent is his portrayal consistent with what we know from ancient sources (Augustan History, Cassius Dio, *Meditations*)?

Due Friday, April 23, 2018

Rubric

Ancient sources (modern scholarship) are well-understood and interpreted	/15
Significant differences between film and sources are identified	/10
Historical inaccuracies and inventions are plausibly explained	/15
Elements of film-making (sets, locations, script, acting, etc.) are discussed	/15
Own view is well-articulated and supported with details	/15
Ancient sources are cited by (Book and) section, film with approx. timings	/10
Errors in the sentence structure, word usage, punctuation, and spelling are few	/10
Sentences are varied and the language is clear, specific, and uninflated	/10
Total	/100