

CASTE

Compare the accounts of Herodotus, Megasthenes and Xuanzang, and their treatment of caste. In particular, compare Egyptian classes (Hdt.2.164-168) to the seven(!) castes of Megasthenes and the four castes of Xuanzang. How are their similarities important?

WOMEN

Compare the accounts of Herodotus, Megasthenes and Xuanzang, and their treatment of women (daughters, wives, mothers). In particular, compare the Amazons (Hdt.4.110-117) to the Western Women (XZ 11.1 “Simhala” and 11.20 “Persia”). How are their similarities important?

INDIA

Compare the accounts of Herodotus, Megasthenes and Xuanzang, and their treatment of Indian ethnic identity, e.g. use of kinship, language, religion and customs as ethnic markers (Hdt.8.144, cf. XZ 5.1 “Kanyakubja”). In particular, compare exotic animals (e.g. gold ants) and extreme customs. How are their similarities important?

OPEN

Compare our first three ancient texts (see me for topic approval). How can we explain their similarities (and differences)? How are their similarities important?

BE CLEAR • BE BRIEF • BE SPECIFIC — 500 word limit

- make your points clearly, concretely and succinctly
- your first paragraph should be just a few sentences long and should state your thesis
- use a spell checker, but look for typing errors, too

ORGANIZE BY TOPIC • DEMONSTRATE THE DEPTH OF YOUR UNDERSTANDING

- resist the temptation to organize your paper by author or by chapter:

NOT paragraph 1: Herodotus says....

NOT paragraph 2: Megasthenes says...
etc.

- instead, organize by topic:

paragraph 1: The foundation saga of...

paragraph 2: Alphabetic literacy ...
etc.

CITATION FORMAT

primary

abbr. auth. [titl.] book. chapter

use ancient primary sources OFTEN – e.g. Hdt.1.23, *FgrHist* 715 F1a.36 (for Megasthenes), XZ 1.22, etc.

secondary (parenthetical *Chicago Manual of Style* author-date system)

use NO MODERN secondary sources for this essay! No internet sources!

CITE OFTEN • DEMONSTRATE YOUR COMMAND OF THE ANCIENT SOURCES

Cite ancient primary sources often — any and all assigned primary sources. You should NOT refer to secondary sources for this essay.

- cite in parentheses EVERY TIME you QUOTE or SUMMARIZE, for example:

The man chosen by YHWH built a box, or ark, “covered inside and out with pitch” (Gen 9.7).
note that the author or book title is dropped when used in the sentence or cited in sequence

- you can gain credit for breadth of reading by using “; see also” (when the following citation proves the exact same point) or by using “; cf.” (meaning “compare,” when the following citation makes a similar point) which allows you to efficiently cite more than one source without repeating yourself, for example:

Egyptian sources called the dome of the sky Nut: “quote” (*Oec.* II.24; see also Hdt. III.21, Xen. *Hel.* I.35).

THE RULES

Basic Principles of Composition and Usage

VOICE

Use the active voice.

(Hacker 2008:3 no.2; Strunk and White 2000: no.14; Orwell 1946: no.4)

TENSE

Use the past tense.

(Hacker 2008:9, no.5b; Strunk and White 2000: no.21)

N.B. Dead authors speak in the past tense, although their texts may speak in the present.

SPECIFICITY

Use definite, specific, concrete language.

(Strunk and White 2000: no.16)

BREVITY

Use shorter words; omit needless words.

(Hacker 2008:243, no.1; Strunk and White 2000: no.17; Orwell 1946: no.243)

CLARITY

Use everyday words before foreign phrases, jargon, metaphors, and figurative language.

(Hacker 2008:164-19, no.9; Strunk and White 2000:76-79; Orwell 1946: no.1, 5)

ORGANIZATION

Choose a suitable design and hold to it; compose in paragraphs.

(Hacker 2008:198-199, no.39; Strunk and White 2000: no.12-13)

FLEXIBILITY

Break any of these rules sooner than say anything outright barbarous.

(Orwell 1946: no.6)

N.B. This concession in no way weakens the rules cited above.

D. Hacker. 2008. *A Pocket Style Manual* (5th edition). Bedford/St. Martins.

G. Orwell. 1946. Politics and the English Language. *Horizon* 13.76: 252-265.

W. Strunk and E. B. White. 2008. *Elements of Style* (50th Anniversary Edition). Longman.