

Essay (Value: 100-150 Points).

In the following selection Cicero engages in what Quintilian calls a *prosopopoeia* or a speech in character in which he decides to impersonate a famous member of the *gens Claudia* in order to attack Clodia and her brother with assumption that she, Clodia, is ultimately behind all of Caelius' legal troubles. In a well-organized essay discuss how Cicero manipulates the Latin language in order to present an entertaining and convincing portrayal of Appius Claudius Caecus. As you analyze the text and formulate your thesis you should consider the following questions: Why has Cicero chosen Appius Claudius Caecus over other members of this illustrious *gens*? Why is Appius Claudius Caecus an appropriate and useful choice for Cicero *prosopopoeia*? How does this *prosopopoeia* fit into Cicero's overall defense of Caelius? What is the tone of Caecus' speech and how is the tone created by Cicero's Latin? For what is Caecus critical of Clodia? What role does family tradition play in his attack on Clodia? How does Cicero's impersonation of Caecus reflect Roman literary and historical stereotypes? Identify humorous and comedic elements and discuss their significance. What does Cicero wish to achieve through his impersonation of this old Roman *ensor* and how does he manipulate the Latin language to achieve it. Analyze the language carefully considering diction, figures of speech, word order, and phonetics. Make sure that you quote and translate the appropriate words and phrases to support each point of your argument.

Qui profecto, si exstiterit, sic aget ac sic loquetur: "Mulier, quid tibi cum Caelio, quid cum homine adulescentulo, quid cum alieno? Cur aut tam familiaris huic fuisti, ut aurum commodares, aut tam inimica, ut venenum timeres? Non patrem tuum videras, non patrum, non avum, non proavum, non abavum, non atavum audieras consules fuisse; non denique modo te Q. Metelli matrimonium tenuisse sciebas, clarissimi ac fortissimi viri patriaeque amantissimi, qui simul ac pedem limine extulerat, omnes prope cives virtute, gloria, dignitate superabat? Cum ex amplissimo genere in familiam clarissimam nupsisses, cur tibi Caelius tam coniunctus fuit? Cognatus, adfinis, viri tui familiaris? Nihil eorum. Quid igitur fuit nisi quaedam temeritas ac libido? Nonne te, si nostrae imagines viriles non commovebant, ne progenies quidem mea, Q. illa Claudia, aemulam domesticae laudis in gloria muliebri esse admonebat, non virgo illa Vestalis Claudia, quae patrem complexa triumphantem ab inimico tribuno plebei de curru detrahi passa non est? Cur te fraterna vitia potius quam bona paterna et avita et usque a nobis cum in viris tum etiam in feminis repetita moverunt? Ideone ego pacem Pyrrhi diremi, ut tu amorum turpissimorum cotidie foedera ferires, ideo aquam adduxi, ut ea tu incestu uterere, ideo viam munivi, ut eam tu alienis viris comitata celebrares?"