

Welcome to the Agora

Congratulations! You have found your way to the official blog for Agon(ie)s of Athens, led by Professor Brett Rogers at the University of Puget Sound. We will use this space in a variety of ways throughout the course to:

- Post position papers,
- Post proposed legislation, and
- Post discussion about proposed legislation

Come back soon...

Picking a Name and Making a Costume

The first order of business is to pick a name and think about how you will present yourself in the Ekklesia.

To explore names, check out:

http://www.behindthename.com/nmc/gre-anci_m.php

(Please remember to pick a name belonging to a male.)

To explore costumes, I recommend a lot of muddling around on Google Images, but you might start here:

http://www.cwu.edu/~robinsos/ppages/resources/Costume_History/greek.htm

How (Not) to Write a Proposal for the Ekklesia

Here are a few guidelines on how to write a proposal for the assembly:

Length: This shouldn't be long at all. That's what your defense paper is about. The proposal should be something from one to two sentences. No theses please.

Author: Every proposal should have the author's name on it, something to the effect of "I, Perikles, propose that..."

What not to mention: Labeling your proposals (or anything for that matter) with your faction name does not serve your interests. For example, when you start a proposal with "I, Perikles of the Undead Hegemons, propose..." or include in your speeches lines such as "As an Undead Hegemon, I think..." you are automatically (1) drawing attention to the fact that this is all about

the personal interest and goals of Undead Hegemons, and (2) alienating everyone who is not an Undead Hegemon. Keep this in mind.

Good Example:

I, Perikles, propose that the Assembly institute an aviation tax, to be collected monthly from all citizens with an aviation license and effective immediately, in order to establish an Athenian aviation Academy.

Note that this includes...

- The author's name
- The exact thing we are voting on (creation of an aviation school)
- The legal enforcement procedure that will allow the end result (taxation)

...without the burden of such cumbersome blah as:

- The author's faction
- The benefits to Athens
- The logic behind the proposal
- Why it is better than alternatives
- The global ramifications of the law-to-be

All the argumentation stuff does not belong in the law itself, but in the paper that I would post and the speech I would deliver the following day (were this an actual proposal). The proposal is only about what the government will be required to do, **not why**.

Also notice that this proposal is remarkably simple. Though it may not always be possible, avoid complicated conditional clauses or too many undefinable words and terms. While leaving those off means your law can't sneak as much through, the purpose of the game is to argue about and pass good legislation: the more complicated your proposal, the less likely people will feel comfortable with it.

Keep not just the language simple but the concept simple as well. The example proposal clearly states that there will be a tax and that it will fund the construction of a school. I didn't try to write the curriculum of the school into my law, nor did I try to legislate the future of all future graduates of the school. I didn't stipulate restrictions on who can enter or who can teach there. All those things are fair game, but most preferably a separate proposal. It's much easier to pass a complicated concept in simple stages than in one fell swoop (this means you should be building up toward your difficult and complicated end goals with baby steps starting on the **first assembly**, not the fifth.)

When a piece of legislation is passed, it should be posted by the Assembly President in the following format:

Resolution of the Boule and the People: when Hermes was Herald and when Aristophanes was President, Perikles proposed this motion: To institute an aviation tax, to be collected monthly from all citizens with an aviation license and effective immediately, in order to establish an Athenian aviation Academy.

Reconciliation Agreement

Resolution of the Boule and the People: when Seleukos was Herald and when Gynepogon was President, Photios proposed this motion: A reconciliation agreement has been instituted to prevent the accusation, punishment, and/or prosecution of any who supported, were associated with, or promoted the 30 tyrants, or who were suspected to as such.

Votes in favor: 4500 Votes opposed: 2500 Abstentions: 500

Officials for the Next Assembly Session

As determined by lot, the officials for the next meeting of the Athenian Assembly [Monday, Nov. 25] are:

President: **Photios**

Herald: **Thrasyboulos**

Archons: **Hesperos and Aesop**

Please submit all proposed legislation to the President by 9 am the day before the next Assembly [= Sunday, Nov. 24].

- GM