

Unit 16 - Classwork 4: The “Melian Dialogue” (by Thucydides)

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In order to answer the following questions, read pages 14–18 in Unit 16.

1. According to the Melians, when is *hopelessness* a mistake?

2. According to the Athenians, when is *hopefulness* a mistake?

3. The Melians and the Athenians each believed that the gods were on their side.

(i) According to the *Melians*, why were the gods on their side?

(ii) According to the *Athenians*, why were the gods on their side?

4. According to the Athenians, what do the Spartans think about justice?

5. According to the Melians, if what the Spartans think about justice is as the Athenians said, then why is it just for the Spartans to protect the Melians from the Athenians?

6. According to the Melians, why would it be dangerous for the Spartans *not* to protect the Melians from the Athenians? State *both* reasons.

7. According to the Athenians, were the Spartans *mistaken* about justice? Why or why not? Explain.

8. According to the Athenians, why wouldn't the Spartans protect the Melians from the Athenians?

9. According to the Melians, how might the Spartans have been able to free the Melians from the Athenian siege of Melos?

10. According to the Athenians, why wouldn't the Spartans have been able to free the Melians from the Athenian siege of Melos?