

Romans and Their Discontents

Power, Resistance, and Conflict in the Roman World

In this project, you will explore a key figure connected to Rome. You may choose either a Roman or someone who challenged Rome. Your goal is not just to summarize a life, but to explain what your figure reveals about Roman power, Roman values, and resistance to Rome.

Guiding Question

Who supported Rome, who resisted Rome, and what does that reveal about the Roman world?

Project Options

- Option A: Choose a Roman figure such as a general, statesman, emperor, reformer, writer, or rebel within the Roman world.
- Option B: Choose an enemy, rival, rebel, or resistance figure who fought against Rome or opposed Roman rule.
- You may work alone or with partners, depending on teacher approval.

Possible Topics

Romans	Enemies / Opponents of Rome
Julius Caesar	Hannibal
Augustus	Cleopatra VII
Scipio Africanus	Vercingetorix
Cicero	Boudica
Trajan	Spartacus
Marcus Aurelius	Mithridates VI
Hadrian	Arminius
Tiberius & Gaius Gracchus	Jugurtha

Required Components

1. A clear thesis that explains why your figure matters in Roman history.
2. Basic background: who the person was, when they lived, and where they lived.
3. An explanation of the person's relationship to Rome.
4. At least two important events, actions, or achievements connected to the figure.
5. An analysis of what this figure reveals about Roman power, values, strengths, or weaknesses.
6. A conclusion that answers the guiding question in a thoughtful way.
7. A works cited section in MLA format or teacher-approved simplified citation format.

Research Expectations

- Use at least 5 credible sources.
- At least 1 source must be a book, database article, or other teacher-approved academic source.
- Do not rely only on Wikipedia, random websites, or AI summaries.
- Take notes in your own words and keep track of where your information came from.

Final Product Choices

- 10-minute presentation with visuals
- Poster or trifold display with an oral explanation
- Slides with speaking notes

Suggested Structure for Student Thinking

- Who was this person?
- What was this person trying to accomplish?
- How did this person interact with Rome?
- Why did Romans support or oppose this person?
- What does this figure teach us about the Roman world?

Important Note

Connect your person to one of the following themes: leadership, imperialism, citizenship, rebellion, propaganda, justice, or cultural conflict.

Assessment Rubric

Category	Advanced	Proficient	Developing	Beginning
Historical Understanding	Shows deep, accurate understanding of the figure and historical setting.	Shows clear and mostly accurate understanding.	Shows partial understanding with some gaps or errors.	Shows limited understanding or major errors.
Analysis	Insightfully explains what the figure reveals about Rome or opposition to Rome.	Clearly explains the figure's significance.	Some explanation is present, but it remains basic.	Mostly summary with little analysis.
Use of Evidence	Uses strong evidence from multiple credible sources and cites it well.	Uses evidence from credible sources with minor issues.	Uses limited or uneven evidence.	Uses weak evidence or missing citations.
Organization & Presentation	Well organized, polished, and engaging.	Organized and clear.	Somewhat organized but uneven.	Hard to follow or incomplete.
Mechanics & Effort	Virtually no errors; strong effort and care are obvious.	Minor errors; solid effort.	Several errors or signs of rushed work.	Many errors or incomplete effort.