**Athens vs. Sparta Simulation**

**The year is 479 B.C.E. (before common era). While you are attending a conference on the island of Delos regarding the war with Persia, different classes from Athens and Sparta start to argue over who has a superior culture. Who, in fact, is the most “civilized”- Athens or Sparta?**

**Once you are assigned your role, annotate it as well as other classes that might affect you. You are going to need to argue which is the superior society based on evidence (you can choose either side, regardless of your assigned city-state).**

**Once the debate begins, you will be in character and you will provide evidence for your argument (evidence can come from your analysis that you have completed from previous classes as well).**

**Athens 479 B.C.E.**

**1. Athenian Citizen:** You are over 18, male, and a native of Athens (not a foreigner)

You believe that all citizens should participate in government as a civic responsibility. Athenians believed in their cultural superiority and in their role in an empire and benefiting from trade. Due to your belief in trade and cultural diffusion, you welcome foreigners into your city. You believe that slaves make up an important part of the household, and women are considered your property. 20%

**2. Slaves:** You are property and your job is to grow surplus of food so the citizens can use their time wisely to talk about politics, philosophy, art and literature. Although you are a slave who has no rights, you are not treated as harshly as slaves in other city-states. 40%

**3. Women:** You are pretty much a non-citizen.

You are kept at home with no participation in sports or politics. You are considered property of your husband. Your responsibilities include spinning, weaving and other domestic arts. Some women hold high posts in the ritual events and religious life of Athens (where the goddess Athena was the patron). 20%

**4. Metic:** In ancient Greece, you are a foreigner who had less rights than a citizen. Metics were found in most states except [Sparta](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/558311/Sparta). In [Athens](http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/40773/Athens), where metics were most numerous, you occupied an intermediate position between visiting foreigners and citizens, having both privileges and duties. You are a recognized part of the community and specially protected by law, although subject to restrictions on marriage and property ownership. As a class you are a significant source of manpower and skilled labor, and you constituted a large part of the population of Athens by the 5th century B.C.E. (20%)

**Sparta 431 B.C.E.**

**5. Spartan Citizen:** You are an aggressive warrior who lives by a strict code based on militaristic values. You enjoy full rights, however you are not permitted to own gold or silver or luxuries. Spartan children were taught to respect elderly, women, and warriors. Your hobbies include stealing food to become a more skillful warrior, preparing for war, and killing helots in the countryside to keep them in their place. Defeat in battle is the ultimate disgrace/shame. Spartan mothers would say to their sons, "Either come back with your shield or on it" (meaning return victorious or die fighting).

**6. Helot-**  you are a class that is descended from people who had resisted being subjugated by Sparta when Sparta conquered Messenia. You are treated like a slave and gave 1/2 of their produce to the Spartan citizens who owned the land. Although you are treated so poorly, you are not quite a slave, but instead you are a **serf** [an agricultural laborer who is bound to the citizens’ estates]. You need to watch out, Spartans often come to the countryside where you live to kill helots so you don’t get any subversive ideas.

**7. Spartan Woman:**

You were educated in reading and writing and can participate in sports. Compared to Athenian women, you are treated more as equals to men. Men treat you better than Athenians treat women so you can produce strong and healthy babies. At age 18 you are assigned a husband. Citizen women were free to move around and enjoyed a great deal of freedom. Domestic arts (weaving, spinning, etc.) are usually left to the other classes. As a Spartan women you can own and control your own property. In times of war you are expected to oversee your husband's property and to guard it against invaders and revolts until your husband returns.

**8. Persians:**

The Persian empire was the first of such a culturally diverse empire. The rules and customs of the local populations were preserved and executed by the local governments (Satraps). As a Persian, you believe that Greeks in general are weak since they do not bow down to a supreme leader, but instead, to law that recognizes rights for citizens.

Also, since Cyrus the Great, slavery was outlawed in the Persian Empire, and people had the right to follow their own religion. You believe that people can still hold on to their customs and traditions, as long as they submit that the Persian leader is the “king of kings.”