

SSP100.001 *Democracy Inaction* Essay Assignment #2

Due: in class on Monday, October 16th, at 2.30pm

The second assignment gives you the opportunity to examine the definition of leadership, as exemplified by Pericles in Athenian politics and life. Pericles, as a *strategos* elected by the Athenian *demos*, provided leadership for Athens for 30 years. His policies included reinforcing Athens' walls and strengthening her navy; opening governance in the courts and in the archonship to more citizens; solidifying the league as an empire; imposing democracies on reluctant allies; adorning Athens with temples, civic buildings, and an overall vision for beautification; providing job opportunities for thousands of citizens. Many have argued that the Athenian "experiment," the golden age of Athens, could never have transpired without the leadership of Pericles.

Your essay can take many forms, but keep in mind that the ultimate goal is to articulate what you envision as an effective leader of ancient Athens. Questions you might consider:

- Were the decisions of Pericles wise ones that benefitted the community, or were they self-serving?
- Did he make decisions that strengthened his community? Did they lead to a better sense of Athenian identity? What were the risks, and costs, of such policies?
- What are the criteria the Athenians used for choosing leaders? Were these criteria effective, or should the Athenians have employed a different system?
- What did the Athenians seek in a leader, and for what reasons? And, to whom were their leaders responsible?

You need not address all of the questions raised here; indeed, feel free to raise your own questions about leadership. Note: you might want to read ahead in *AGD* pp. 156-158, an excerpt from Pericles' *Funeral Oration* as "recorded" by Thucydides.

The standard rules apply for this paper – it should ...

- contain a thesis, be fully argued, and supplemented with supporting evidence and appropriate citations. I suggest that you structure the essay around a thesis, rather than responding sequentially to the list of questions above.
- be approximately 1300 words in length, paginated, double-spaced, 1" margins, 12-point type, and stapled.
- have only your name, the name of the course and the date on the top of the first page.