

Vergil Research Paper

The research paper in Latin IV this year must deal directly with some facet/s of Vergil's *Aeneid* in light of the entire epic. A wide range of topics is possible. Vergilian scholarship is virtually limitless. By no means to be taken as prescriptive or exhaustive, possible topics might include

- analyses of similes for their relevance to the poem,
- comparisons of Homeric models with Vergilian imitations/innovations,
- word studies,
- comparison and evaluation of published translations,
- character analyses,
- investigation of the poem's overall themes,
- the epic's place in Augustan society.

Both Latin IV and AP Latin students must follow certain common guidelines for academic research. In general, all research papers should

- adhere to the standards of scholarly written English (e.g., no contractions, few abbreviations, avoidance of passive voice);
- exhibit grammatical correctness (e.g., "who" vs. "whom," subject-verb agreement);
- apply mechanics correctly (e.g., no run-on sentences, correct use of commas);
- follow the dicta of MLA for citations and formatting;
- use a minimum of two acceptable references besides the text of the *Aeneid* itself;
- connect the topic studied to the larger issues of theme, meaning, or relevance of the epic;
- conform to the Jane Schaffer method or otherwise contain
 - an introduction,
 - a clearly recognizable thesis statement,
 - a body of investigative and/or supporting evidence,
 - a well-reasoned conclusion.

Additionally, students

- **must** cite the original Latin text and provide their own English translations, the accuracy of which will be subject to evaluation. The English translation must follow the Latin in a parenthetical reference, and the source/s of the Latin text must be cited. (**Note:** Any such source is in addition to the minimum of two acceptable references described above in the general requirements list.)
- **must** write three to five pages on the topic of their choice.