

High School- level Activity prepared by Daniel J. McNamara

Editorial Board Meeting for a Textbook Publisher

Objective: To decide if information about Emperor Hadrian’s romantic relationship with another man--Antinous--should be included in the next edition of your high school Global History textbook.

Instructions: Conduct a well-balanced and reasonable discussion with your fellow editorial board members about the topic of this meeting. It is your task to decide whether or not your company, one of the nation’s largest textbook publishers, should make the information about Hadrian’s same-sex relationship with Antinous available to high school students. The historical evidence supporting this is strong. You will need to weigh the positive aspects of doing so against the possible negative aspects. For instance, including the information about Hadrian and Antinous would make your textbook more historically accurate. On the other hand, it might result in a homophobic response from either school districts or parents. Before you begin your discussion, answer the questions below. Then discuss with your teammates what your company should do. Next, take a vote of your editorial board to establish your decision. Finally, write a 100 word description of your editorial board discussion. Include feelings that came up as you were expressing your ideas and listening to others.

1. What are reasons why the next edition of your textbook *should* include information regarding Hadrian’s relationship with Antinous?
2. What are reasons why the next edition of your textbook *should not* include information regarding Hadrian’s relationship with Antinous?
3. Of the reasons for and against the inclusion of information regarding Hadrian’s relationship with Antinous in the next edition your textbook, which are the strongest and which are the weakest?

Strongest:

Weakest:

4. Voting Results of Your Editorial Board: _____

5. 100 word description of your impressions of your editorial board discussion and decision, and your feelings during the discussion.