

Freedom of Religion

Imagine that you are an advisor to Emperor Theodosius. Theodosius is a Christian. He is thinking that he will make Christianity the official state religion and ban all other religions.

He has asked for your advice. You are going to get two minutes to give him your advice.

You are going to advise him that the best policy is to permit freedom of religion. In your two-minute presentation, you should:

1. Tell about the harm that religious persecution has caused in Roman history.
2. Explain why religious freedom for everyone is best.

In your group, do the following:

1. Go through the two articles on the treatment of Jews and Christians in the Roman Empire and find examples of how religious persecution hurt people.
2. Brainstorm ideas about why religious freedom is a good idea.
3. Prepare your speech. (It must only last two minutes.)
4. Practice the speech and decide who will deliver it.

Remember what the Greek philosopher Aristotle explained about speech-making. He said that every speech is made of two parts:

1. *Logos*. This is the content of the speech. A great speech must:
 - (a) Have something to say.
 - (b) Be organized and clear.
 - (c) Have a powerful beginning, a good middle, and a strong ending.
2. *Lexis*. This is the delivery of the speech. A great speaker connects with the audience. The speaker:
 - (a) Looks at the audience.
 - (b) Speaks clearly.
 - (c) Makes strong gestures.

Follow Aristotle's advice.