Quick Review of Pro Archia

Section 1:  *If there is any natural ability in me, O Judges ... In truth, all the arts which concern the civilising and humanising of men, have some link which binds them together, and are, as it were, connected by some relationship to one another.*

Cicero Paraphrased:

All of my talent is a result of studying poetry with Archias. I owe it to Archias to help him, especially since he taught me how to help others through the usefulness of literature. From literature I learned two key things (1) Psychology, or how characters think and behave in certain situations (2) Style, or how common ideas can best be “sold” through powerfully constructed language.

Sure, Archias is a poet, and I’m an orator; but all the arts are intimately linked.

What is Cicero’s rhetorical strategy?

- Humility; praising teacher
- Corrective introduction
  - show all arts are connected and then I can speak in a literary style to remind the judges how impressive literature is and how we should value it and those who can produce high literature. Since Archias is already a citizen legally; there’s no chance the judges will reject such a talented person.

What is so awesome about Cicero’s style?

Parallel structure (patterns of words/language) and balance (approx. equal number of words):

*If there is any natural ability in me, O judges,—and I know how slight that is; or if I have any practice as a speaker,—and in that line I do not deny that I have some experience; or if I have any method in my oratory...*

Quotable statements: *In truth, all the arts which concern the civilising and humanising of men, have some link which binds them together, and are, as it were, connected by some relationship to one another.*

LARGER QUESTION(S):

1. Why might Cicero support a liberal arts college?
2. What would Cicero find valuable in WHGC?
Section 2: And, that is may not appear marvelous to any one of you…to employ a new and unusual style of oratory.

Cicero Paraphrased:

Since I’m defending a poet, let me elevate my basic court style and speak in a way worthy of a poet.

What is Cicero’s rhetorical strategy?

- Direct request; asks permission from judges
- Justifying the break in convention
  - Cicero shows deference to the judges by asking permission and giving a rationale for deviating from “court” language.

What is so awesome about Cicero’s style?

Parallel structure: doublets (two words [not synonymous] paired with “and, but, or, for, yet, so, nor”—these are called coordinating conjunctions):

...when speaking in defence of a most sublime poet and most learned man, before this concourse of highly-educated citizens, before this most polite and accomplished assembly...

Quotable statements: I entreat you in this cause to grant me this indulgence, suitable to this defendant... to enlarge with a little more freedom than usual on the study of polite literature and refined arts... to employ a new and unusual style of oratory.

LARGER QUESTION(S):

1. What are the effects when style fits the occasion? To what extend does this idea ring true when style means hair style, or clothing, or behavior?
2. Do you think Cicero’s shift from court style to a literary style is necessary to win his case?
3. What is the relationship between content and style?
4. Do you think “excellence in style” is a criterion for books that are chosen for the WHGC reading list?
Section 3: And if I feel that that indulgence is given and allowed me by you… and all men who were capable of judging of genius thought him deserving of their acquaintance and hospitality.

Cicero Paraphrased:

Thesis statement: Archias is a citizen; if he were not, he should be.

Archias is a star among stars. He’s a big fish in a big pond.

What is Cicero’s rhetorical strategy?

- Firm stance in thesis
- Narrative excitement (amplification: showing that Archias is way above average)

What is so awesome about Cicero’s style?

Doublets throughout. Where do you see them?

Quotable statements:

Afterwards, in the other parts of Asia, and over all Greece, his arrival was so talked of wherever he came, that the anxiety with which he was expected was even greater than the fame of his genius;--but the admiration which he excited when he had arrived, exceeded even the anxiety with which he was expected. 

LARGER QUESTION(S):

1. Although this short biography on Archias reminds the judges that Archias is Greek, what culture is this passage really about?
2. How are truths “packaged” in names and name brands? Is some value or belief or policy “right/true/valid” if it is a. In the Bible/Koran b. In the U.S. Constitution c. In a Seinfeld episode d. In Homer e. In the New York Times
Section 4: When, from this great celebrity of his, he had become known to us though absent, he came to Rome, in the consulship of Marius and Catulus... For, not only did every one cultivate his acquaintance who wished to learn or to hear anything, but even every one pretended to have such a desire.

Cicero Paraphrased:

Archias was so famous that we knew of him before he got to Rome. He is close to many powerful Romans. It was “cool” to think highly of and talk about Archias.

What is Cicero’s rhetorical strategy?

- “Known by the company you keep” argument
- Enumeration (a sentence-based list in which the author gives many detailed examples)

What is so awesome about Cicero’s style?

Variety in parallel constructions:

Archias “gained the affection of QM”
was “eagerly listened to by MA”
“associated with QC”
was “highly respected by LC”
was “on the terms of the greatest possible intimacy” with (L/D/O/C)

Quotable statements:

Immediately the Luculli, though Archias was as yet but a youth, I received him in their house. But it was not only to his genius and his learning, but also to his natural disposition and virtue, that it must be attributed that the house which was the first to be opened to him in his youth, is also the one in which he lives most familiarly in his old age.

LARGER QUESTION(S):

1. How do you suppose Cicero is encouraging the judges to determine the “truth” of citizenship?
Section 5: In the meantime, after a sufficiently long interval, having gone with Lucius Lucullus into Sicily, and having afterwards departed from that province in the company of the same Lucullus, he came to Heraclea... not that he has heard of it, but that he saw it; not even that he was present when it was done, but that he actually did it himself.

Cicero Paraphrased:

Proof 1: Archias is a legitimate citizen of Heraclea. He is legit through the Lex Plautia Papiria (law of Silvanus and Carbo). Lucullus approved it. Lucullus is in court today.

What is Cicero’s rhetorical strategy?

- Quotes law: shows his authority as lawyer
- Aggressive fact: “The cause is over.”

What is so awesome about Cicero’s style?

Balanced amplification:

There is a man present of the very highest authority, a most scrupulous and truthful man, Lucius Lucullus, who will tell you not that he thinks it, but that he knows it; not that he has heard of it, but that he saw it; not even that he was present when it was done, but that he actually did it himself.

Quotable statements:

There is a man present of the very highest authority, a most scrupulous and truthful man, Lucius Lucullus, who will tell you not that he thinks it, but that he knows it; not that he has heard of it, but that he saw it; not even that he was present when it was done, but that he actually did it himself.

LARGER QUESTION(S):

1. How reliable is first-hand eye-witness in revealing the truth? Lucullus, remember, not only heard about Archias’ enrollment but he “saw it?”
2. Is Lucullus’ testimony just as true as document? More true? Not as true? Are documents more reliable than testimony? Is Lucullus (a brand name) more reliable than say, some forgotten Roman on staff at the time?
Section 6: Deputies from Heraclea are present, men of the highest rank... and to demand documentary evidence, though you say at the same moment that that is constantly played tricks with.

Cicero Paraphrased:

The documents are gone, but the officials from Heraclea are here to vouch for Archias.

What is Cicero’s rhetorical strategy?

- The opponent is full of audacity!

What is so awesome about Cicero’s style?

Direct hit on opponent:

It is ridiculous to say nothing to the proofs which we have, but to ask for proofs which it is impossible for us to have; to disregard the recollection of men, and to appeal to the memory of documents

Quotable statements:

It is ridiculous to say nothing to the proofs which we have, but to ask for proofs which it is impossible for us to have; to disregard the recollection of men, and to appeal to the memory of documents

LARGER QUESTION(S):

1. If all of your record at Eckerd were destroyed, would the testimony of your teachers, the Dean etc. be proof enough that you passed your courses?
2. If a future employer promised you large pay increases every month, would you be satisfied with testimony of the CEO etc with no written document?
3. What seems more “true” today, documents or “my word is my bond.” What is the role of “oral contracts?”
Section 7: “But he had no residence at Rome.” What, not he who for so many years before the freedom of the city was given to him, had established the abode of all his property and fortunes at Rome... I suppose, that the Rhegians, and Locrians, and Neapolitans, and Tarentines should have been unwilling to give to this man, enjoying the highest possible reputation for genius, what they were in the habit of giving even to theatrical artists.

Cicero Paraphrased:

Archias has been living at Rome a long time. Archias’ name was not erased from the records. And the Greeks gave citizenship to lesser men, we Romans should grant citizenship to this very talented man.

What is Cicero’s rhetorical strategy?

- Anticipates Gratius’ objections, notes them, refutes them. (NB: a great strategy for the junior portfolio “argument/persuasive” paper)
- Universal argument of lesser/more comparison (if Greeks gave citizenship to lesser men, we Romans (superior to the Greeks) should give citizenship to greater men.

What is so awesome about Cicero’s style?

Puts objections in quotations, then answers those objections:

“But he did not return himself.” Indeed he did, and in that return which alone obtains with the college of praetors the authority of a public document.

Quotable statements:

And as this is the case, what reason have you for doubting about his citizenship, especially as he was enrolled as a citizen of other cities also? In truth, as men in Greece were in the habit of giving rights of citizenship to many men of very ordinary qualifications

LARGER QUESTION(S):

1. Notice that in this section there are two explicit battles for “truth” (Cicero vs. Gratius). If truth is just truth, why do humans feel the need to have a court course? If there are equally valuable truths (as we see in Antigone, the duty to Gods, the duty to human law), do some “truths” cancel others out?
Section 8: What, when other men, who not only after the freedom of the city had been given, but even after the passing of the Papian law, crept somehow or other into the registers of those municipalities... and he was made honourable mention of by Lucius Lucullus, both as praetor and as consul, in the archives kept in the treasury.

Cicero Paraphrased:

Many unworthy people got their names on the citizenship list. Archias was legit. Archias is not on the census documents but he’s on other documents.

What is Cicero’s rhetorical strategy?

- Refutes all the points which Gratius feels are significant

What is so awesome about Cicero’s style?

Impressively builds reasons.

I suppose no one knows that at the time of the last census he was with that most illustrious general, Lucius Lucullus, with the army; that at the time of the preceding one he was with the same man when he was in Asia as quaestor; and that in the census before that, when Julius and Crassus were censors, no regular account of the people was taken.

Quotable statements:

I suppose no one knows that at the time of the last census he was with that most illustrious general, Lucius Lucullus, with the army; that at the time of the preceding one he was with the same man when he was in Asia as quaestor; and that in the census before that, when Julius and Crassus were censors, no regular account of the people was taken.

LARGER QUESTION(S):

1. Cicero challenges the “truth” of documents: some show up on the documents and are not as legit; others do not appear (as Archias) and are legit. Do documents reveal “truth.”
   a. Is it possible for someone to hold a degree and yet only “appear” to have knowledge, rather than really possess it?
   b. Are you any less of a driver, if you do not have your license “on you?” Likewise, can someone be an excellent driver and not possess a license?
   c. What is the relationship between the “thing” [a skill, ceremony such as marriage etc.] and the “document,” which proves or verifies the thing?
Section 9: You must rely wholly on what arguments you can find... but all these things would lie buried in darkness, if the light of literature and learning were not applied to them.

Cicero Paraphrased:

Literature rules. Why? It makes you smarter; teaches you how to think critically which may result in better behavior; stories are fun and relaxing. Most importantly, you can learn how to be a good communicator by studying the emotions of the characters and the style of the author.

Archias rules because he’s great at Literature and can teach it.

What is Cicero’s rhetorical strategy?

- Praise (highlights the greatness of Archias and his profession)

What is so awesome about Cicero’s style?

Deep sincerity: he believes what he is saying

Because he supplies us with food whereby our mind is refreshed after this noise in the forum, and with rest for our ears after they have been wearied with bad language. Do you think it possible that we could find a supply for our daily speeches, when discussing such a variety of matters, unless we were to cultivate our minds by the study of literature; or that our minds could bear being kept so constantly on the stretch if we did not relax them by that same study?

Quotable statements:

Because he supplies us with food whereby our mind is refreshed after this noise in the forum, and with rest for our ears after they have been wearied with bad language. Do you think it possible that we could find a supply for our daily speeches, when discussing such a variety of matters, unless we were to cultivate our minds by the study of literature; or that our minds could bear being kept so constantly on the stretch if we did not relax them by that same study?

LARGER QUESTION(S):

1. In what ways are you finding that Literature is useful for attaining the good life and is useful for becoming a better speaker and writer? Elaborate.
2. How much do you need to know about human psychology/behavior in your major?
3. What are the stylistic virtues in your major?
Section 10: Who then can reproach me or who has any right to be angry with me...But all books are full of such precepts, and all the sayings of philosophers, and all antiquity is full of precedents teaching the same lesson; but all these things would lie buried in darkness, if the light of literature and learning were not applied to them

Cicero Paraphrased:

Literature is as important as business. Cicero learned honor and prioritizing from Literature.

What is Cicero’s rhetorical strategy?

- Personal experience (though Cicero is humble in the introduction, his audience knew he was one of the highest intellects in Rome.

What is so awesome about Cicero’s style?

Elaborating on the greatness and usefulness of literature.

...by these studies my power of speaking and those faculties are improved, which, as far as they do exist in me, have never been denied to my friends when they have been in peril.

Quotable statements:

But all books are full of such precepts, and all the sayings of philosophers, and all antiquity is full of precedents teaching the same lesson; but all these things would lie buried in darkness, if the light of literature and learning were not applied to them.

LARGER QUESTION(S):

1. Cicero dedicates nearly the whole duration of his defense to praising literature and Archias’ role as an teacher of literature. His encomium to literature (speech of praise) intensifies the importance of literature. What effect do time and intensity have on socially-constructed “truths?”
   a. If we go to church every Sunday, does our faith seem more real than if we go once a year?
   b. If miss a lot of class, do you feel the class is having a real effect on you?
   c. What’s the relationship between truth and reality?