

First paper assignment

Chen Ping ranks among the most important advisors who aided Gaozu in his unification of the empire and founding of the Han dynasty. Please find attached an excerpt from his biography in the *Shiji*. It covers the biography's start and concludes with Chen's first long conversation with Gaozu. Please use the excerpt to analyze Chen Ping's character. Consider the question: how in these first few pages does Sima Qian establish Chen Ping as a worthy man, who will be of great help to the Han enterprise? What virtues and skills does Chen seem to have?

In your analysis, you are encouraged to make appropriate use of the two frameworks we have discussed in class, namely, duration and the five aspects of developing characters. That is, while crafting your essay, take note of what Sima chooses to focus on, what he summarizes, what he remains silent on altogether. To help you further with this task, you might consider beginnings of other *Shiji* biographies and how we have used them to think about their subjects. Do **NO** further research on Chen Ping or Sima Qian, but simply analyze the text.

The paper is to be three pages in length, typed, stapled, double-spaced, with one-inch margins, 12-point font, and free of spelling and grammatical errors. Do not leave an extra space between paragraphs. Give the paper a good title, which ties with your thesis. Please leave the right margin ragged and unjustified, and use endnotes rather than footnotes or in-text citations. All references must be cited and footnoted properly, or the paper will be returned to the writer for the appropriate corrections. Please use the Chicago style for citations. Explanations and examples can be found at <http://www.library.georgetown.edu/tutorials/research-guides/turabian-footnote-guide>. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the assignment. Papers turned in after the deadline will be marked down one-half grade for each day they are late. **NO** e-mail attachments will be accepted. No computer-related excuses will be accepted. Drafts may be submitted before the due date. Due at the start of class on January 25th.