**And Never Say No: Politics as Usual in Ancient Rome  
Response Questions**

1. In what 3 ways were candidates for the consulship remarkably similar to modern politicians?
2. Summarize the political advice that Cicero’s brother gave him.
3. Explain the functions of spectators and *nomenclatori*.
4. Describe evidence of the impact of interest groups (guilds, etc.) on Roman politics. What might we infer from this?
5. a. Casson describes some of the campaigning tactics that were more effective than writing on walls. Cite some of them.

b. Explain the significant long-term political implications of such gestures.

1. Describe what happened to campaigning and politics and in the decades following 133 BCE (this was the year that Tiberius Gracchus was elected tribune).
2. Casson argues that the nadir period of Roman politics was from 70-50 BCE. What is his rationale for this assertion?
3. Whereas Pompey earned his fortune by buying up *latifundia*, Crassus, though born wealthy, became one of history’s wealthiest men using terribly crass (ahem) methods. Explain.
4. Explain some of the laws that were passed in the 7th decade BCE to reduce bribery and corruption.
5. Who was Cato the Younger, what were his goals, and what was his fate?
6. Casson devotes some attention to Caesar:
   1. How does Casson describe Caesar?
   2. Caesar compensated for his lack of wealth with certain qualities. Explain.
   3. Describe the relationship between Crassus and Caesar.
7. Casson asserts that Augustus and Mark Antony managed to reduce violence, crime, and corruption. Simply put, at what cost did they do so?
8. Evaluate the assertion that, “Democracy [direct rule by the People] and Republicanism [representative rule of the People] are political systems that breed bribery, corruption, ugly populism, and demagoguery. As such, Democracies and Republics are intrinsically unstable and suicidal.”