



Te nunc, P. Scipio, te, inquam, lectissimum ornatissimumque adolescentem, appello, abs te officium tuum debitum generi et nomini requiro et flagito. Cur pro isto, qui laudem honoremque familiae vestrae depeculatus est, pugnas, cur eum defensum esse vis, cur ego tuas partis suscipio, cur tuum munus sustineo, cur M. Tullius P. Africani monumenta requirit, P. Scipio eum qui illa sustulit defendit?

Look out for superlatives.

Te nunc, P. Scipio, te, inquam,

Inquam “I say”

lectissimum ornatissimumque adolescentem, appello,

appellare “to call on”, *lectus* “choice” “excellent” *ornatus* “adorned” i.e. “accomplished”.

abs te officium tuum debitum generi et nomini requiro et flagito.

Start with the verbs: *flagitare* “to demand”, *abs* “from” *officium debitum* “duty owed” *genus* “family”.

Translate and compare.

I say to you now P[ublius] Scipio, I call on you, most excellent and most accomplished youth, I require and demand from you the duty you owe to your family and name.

Notice the emphatic repetition of *te*.

The person Cicero is addressing is Publius Cornelius Scipio Nasica (c.95-46BC) who was present at the trial as one of Verres's defenders. You can see his portrait on a *Denarius* (small value coin) at the beginning of this lesson. He fled to Africa after being defeated by Julius Caesar. If you look closely you will see that he seems to be wearing an elephant-head hat. This is to signify his African Generalship. He was defeated at the Battle of Thapsus.

Cicero calls him *lectissimum ornatissimumque adolescentem* but he was – or became – anything but virtuous. Like Verres he was an extortioner in the provinces. He was very immoral, a tyrant when in power and ineffectual as a military commander.

Cur pro isto, qui laudem honoremque familiae vestrae depeculatus est, pugnas,

Start with the beginning then miss out the part in the commas and go to the verb, then deal with the part in commas. *Depeculari* “to despoil” (deponent).

cur eum defensum esse vis,

cur ego tuas partis suscipio,

Suscipio “take up” *Partis* here is an actor's part in a play. You could translate it rôle.

cur tuum munus sustineo,

Munus “duty” *sustinere* “undertake”

cur M. Tullius P. Africani monumenta requirit,

Requirere “pine for”

P. Scipio eum qui illa sustulit defendit?

Translate and compare.

Why do you fight for him by whom the praise and honour of your family is robbed,
why do you wish him to be defended,
why do I take up your rôle,
why do I undertake your duty,
why does Marcus Tullius [Cicero] pine for the monument of Publius Scipio Africanus,
why does P[ublius Cornelius] Scipio [Nasica] defend him who stole it?

Rhetorical devices in this sentence:

First notice the **repetition**. *Cur, cur...*

This is an example of a rhetorical device called **anaphora** the repetition of words or phrases.

This is also an example of **asyndeton**. Asyndeton is the omission of conjunctions. The most famous example of asyndeton is *veni vidi vici* "I came, I saw, I conquered". There are no "ands" linking the parts of this sentence.

Cur ego tuas partis suscipio, is a **metaphor** from the world of the theatre.

In the previous sentence the emphasis has been on *te* and *tuum*. In this sentence Cicero switches to the plural form of "you" *vestrae* rather than *tuae*. In the previous sentence, Cicero is just thinking about Publius Cornelius Scipio Nasica. Now he changes his view to one of the whole Scipio dynasty.

Use the above information to write as full an answer as you can to this exam style question:
How does Cicero's use of language keep his hearers' attention in this passage?

NB:- Phrases such as "use of language" are a cue. They mean "give an answer about rhetoric".

Begin your answer "Cicero keeps his hearers' attention in this passage by..." Using the words of the question in this way helps ensure that you actually answer it rather than just providing a list of the rhetorical devices used. **If you just provide a list of rhetorical devices without saying that they "keep the hearer's attention" you run the risk of getting no marks at all because you have not answered the question asked.** An example answer is on the last page.

Keep up your flashcard work. Keep your eyes open for words which relate to English words. I found words that relate to oblivion, lectionary, peculation, and pugnacious. Can you find them? Do you know what they mean?

How does Cicero's use of language keep his hearers' attention in this passage?

Example answer:

Cicero keeps his hearers' attention in this passage by skilful use of rhetorical devices. He uses repetition *Cur, cur...* six times over to hammer home his question forcefully on his hearers' attention. He uses asyndeton, spelling out each part of his cumulative question without any conjunctions. Cicero also keeps his hearers' attention by using metaphor. *Cur ego tuas partis suscipio*, is a metaphor from the theatre, which asks his hearers to picture an actor undertaking the rôle of a character.