

# THE TAEDA

The MJCL Newsletter • August 2025

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## About the TAEDA

The TAEDA (the Latin word for 'torch') is the Michigan JCL's official newsletter. It is written by the students and for the students! We hope to educate others about ancient Greek and Roman culture and to connect the classics to our current world.

This August TAEDA issue includes a Q&A with our MJCL Secretary, Andrea Chuang. It holds a fun debate regarding education through the lenses of Greco-Roman and modern philosophers. Finally, at the end, there is a fun game. We hope you enjoy!

--The MJCL Officers

## Announcements

- Get hyped for your September MJCL chapter meetings!
- The TAEDA is looking for student-written articles about topics related to the classics. If you're interested, please email [michiganmjcl@gmail.com](mailto:michiganmjcl@gmail.com)



## **Q&A with Our Secretary: Andrea Chuang**

Hello! My name is Andrea Chuang, and my Latin name is Taura. I am a senior, and I am going into my fourth year of Latin! I am your 2025-2026 MJCL Secretary!

### **Q: Why did you decide to take Latin?**

**A:** I started taking Latin because it lets me learn about content spanning from literature to culture, while also providing an advantage in academic excellence in other courses!

### **Q: What's your favorite part of MJCL?**

**A:** My favorite part of MJCL is being able to share my passion for Latin with other students from schools across Michigan. I enjoy our annual MJCL meeting, where we are able to partake in the Olympika and interact with other Latin students!

### **Q: Do you have any fun facts?**

**A:** I have two dogs, one is named Teddie and the other is named Cookie. I also have a younger brother named Isaiah. I am a year-round swimmer, and I play the piano. Also, at one of our Latin parties at school, I drank straight chamoy pickle juice with my teacher.



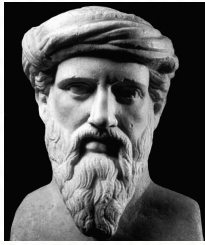
### **Q: Which Roman god/goddess do you relate to the most?**

**A:** I relate to the Roman goddess Hebe the most because she spent time serving and helping others around her. She represents the importance of self-care, staying curious, and always surrounding oneself with positivity. I love helping others and am willing to help others at any time. I also believe that it is important to stay curious, especially in Latin. Another thing about me is that I ensure I surround myself with positive energy, whether it's from other people or simply by reminding myself to be positive.



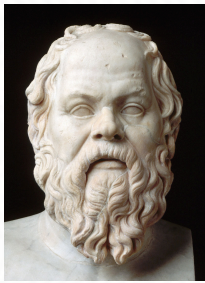
## Greco-Roman and Modern Philosophers' Debate on Education

### Meet the Characters:



#### Pythagoras

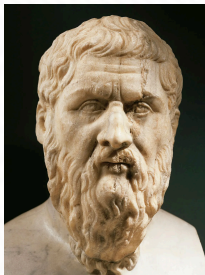
Best known for his work in mathematics, Pythagoras was also the leader of a cult.



#### Socrates

Although he founded Western philosophy, all we know about his philosophy comes from contemporary writers.

#### Plato

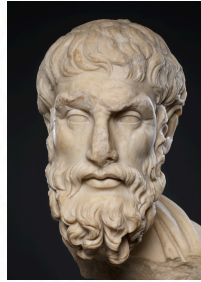


Plato was a student of Socrates, and he was a philosopher in Athens. His most famous work today is his book "The Republic," in which he explores many forms of government. He created a school: "the Academy."

#### Aristotle



Although a student of Plato, Aristotle didn't agree with a number of his philosophies. Later on, Aristotle created his own school, "The Lyceum." Many of his ideas are still prevalent like his "Golden Mean."



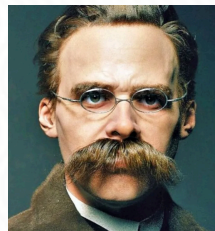
#### Epicurus

Athenian philosopher Epicurus believed that pleasure was the goal of life. When he died, his students turned his school of thought into hedonism (excessive self-indulgence). Now, the word "epicurean" describes a lover of food and wine.



#### Immanuel Kant

Kant was a German philosopher in the mid-to-late 1700s. He believed that our experiences are based solely on our own minds' perception of the world. He stressed the importance of reason and morality.



#### Friedrich Nietzsche

A mid-to-late 1800s German philosopher, Nietzsche sought to challenge all Western philosophy. A father of Existentialism and Nihilism, Friedrich Nietzsche preached usurping societal traditions (i.e., morality, norms, religion)



Socrates believed that, by questioning and refuting a student, he could help them arrive at philosophical truths. He often employed his method on random youth in the streets of Athens. Alas, in 399 BCE, he was tried and executed for “corrupting the youth.” Today, education is just as controversial. So, we must ask: how do the great minds of antiquity and modernity approach this problem?

\*\*\*\*\*

The year is 2025. In the streets of Athens, a man dressed in a white tunic approaches a young boy.

**Socrates:** Boy, are you being educated?

**The boy:** Yes, sir, I am!

**Socrates:** Well, then, what is education? I desire to know the definition.

**The boy:** It is when a teacher stands in front of you and orates on a topic.

**Socrates:** By your definition, you can’t learn through action. Can a deaf man not be educated?

**The boy:** Okay... Education is when a teacher speaks or acts in order to relay knowledge to a student.

**Socrates:** Well, then, boy, I guess one can’t educate oneself? But who taught you how to breathe?

**Plato:** Let me intrude, boy. I’ve played his games before. My great teacher, Socrates, was going to lead you to the conclusion that the apex of education is to know thyself.

**Socrates:** Oh, confound you, Plato! Must you always speak for me? I am trying to teach these youths how to think!

**Plato:** Well, if I may, I have a few beliefs of my own. You see, at the Academy, I preach the Theory of Forms. First, you must understand that the soul is split into three parts. The ruling part is Reason. Now, child, the physical world you perceive is meaningless without the eternal world of forms that exists beneath it. All knowledge you perceive is but speculation. Only knowledge gained by philosophy is truth. We must teach the youth to be philosophers and search past perceptions using Reason.

**Socrates:** (sighs) Always more interested in the world than his own faculties...

**Aristotle:** My teacher! Again with this Theory of Forms. In the Lyceum, we---

**The boy:** Wait! Who are you?

**Aristotle:** Sorry! I’m Aristotle. Anyway, to educate students, we must teach them the principles of the world around them. Students must work to attain truth through logic. If A, then B; if B, then C. *This* is how the world works. Nothing can be both right and wrong; we *can* find the truth. We must also teach them virtue. Then, through repetition, they can find happiness.

**Plato:** Oh, student, the foundation of your philosophy is based on illusion! It is the World of Forms that---



**Nietzsche:** I wonder, oh great Plato, how your face will form around my fist!

**Plato:** Excuse me, you barbarian?!

**Nietzsche:** Well, forgive me, but your values have pulled our minds down into the hole in which you lie! You believe that there is an invisible force behind everything... There isn't. And, Aristotle, with your virtue! Yes, we all should strive for happiness, but not by reaching some objective truth, for there isn't one. As for education, I admire you Greeks. Your competitive culture is just what students need to thrive. But, Plato, your ideas are a plague on my youth. Today, education is all too focused on pushing the whims of society, and not on the student. Schools attempt to push virtue and Christianity, which will never lead to sound education. Individual achievement! *That* is what we should teach. Students must learn to think past societal norms, which are shackles to philosophy.

**Kant:** Now, you brute, I resent that! I grew up a proud Protestant and taught religion to my students.

**Nietzsche:** And, you were sent to jail for teaching it wrong!

**Kant:** Be that as it may, I do agree with some of your points, but you are all too vindictive of our society's moral values. Moral codes are innate to all humans; we must follow good morals because they are natural to our being. Furthermore,

contemplating these values allows students to look into themselves, ask why they do things, and assess their own internal faculties.

**Socrates:** Know thyself...

**Kant:** Right! Our minds perceive the things around us; these truths can be known. What our minds don't perceive can not be known to us. So, I agree that schools should focus more on the student, but I argue that knowledge is found within oneself.

**Epicurus:** Within ourselves? Nay! Knowledge is gained through the senses; that's how everything is known. Intellectual pursuit, just as any other endeavor, is and should be done to achieve pleasure. For example, Aristotle says that happiness is the highest good. I agree, but I would more aptly describe it as pleasure gained through the senses.

**The boy:** Who are you people, and why are there so many of you?!?!

**Pythagoras:** Room for one more? I believe students should learn about triangles!!!

And so, more and more philosophers crowded the streets of Athens, each with their own opinion regarding education. The dialogue eventually became a series of unconnected monologues. So, next time you're sitting in class and believe you could come up with a better way of teaching, remember that everyone else in history thought so too.



## CONNECTE!

AENEAS	UVA	NECROLOGIA	ARENA
EROS	RHEA	PSYCHE	TERRA
CAUDA	AGGER	RUDUS	AGRICOLA
CRONUS	CYCLOPS	URANUS	HECATONCHIRES

Link to the online version: [CONNECTE!](#)

### Your Guess:

Category 1:				
Category 2:				
Category 3:				
Category 4:				

Send your answers to [michiganmjcl@gmail.com](mailto:michiganmjcl@gmail.com)

(Please include your name and school in your submission)

**The first five correct answers will receive a special prize!**

### Contact Us

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