The CANE Latin Motto Ruler is designed to encourage the appreciation of Latin, especially through the phrases and mottoes that we find often in our contemporary readings and culture. This guide is meant to be a starting point in discovering the ways that each of these Latin phrases can enrich our understanding of Latin and English grammar and vocabulary, ancient history and culture, rhetoric, and etymology. For each phrase on the ruler we have included an English translation, alternate translations or interpretations, bits of history and background about the phrase, Latin grammar and syntax points, any rhetoric or figures of speech that appear in the phrase, and the etymology of the Latin words including legal terms and derivatives in four languages.

**ab urbe condita**

*Translation:* from [the year of] the city having been founded  
*Notes:* from the founding of the city [Rome]; abbreviated “A.U.C”; year reckoning by the Romans from 753 B.C., the year of the founding of Rome by Romulus; also *anno urbis conditae*, in the year of the founded city [Rome]; used after the time of Augustus in expressing the date since the founding of Rome; A.U.C. 1 is the first year *ab urbe condita*, i.e. after the founding of Rome in 753 B.C.; for the whole B.C. era, subtract the A.U.C. number from 754 to obtain the B.C. year: A.U.C. 1 = 753 B.C., A.U.C. 2 = 752 B.C., A.U.C. 753 = 1 B.C.; for the whole A.D. era, subtract 753 from the A.U.C. number to obtain the A.D. year: A.U.C. 754 = A.D. 1, A.U.C. 755 = A.D. 2 [from *Cassell’s Latin Dictionary* by D. P. Simpson, 1968, p. xv]  
*Teaching Points:* preposition + ablative, perfect passive participle, participle/noun agreement, prepositions as prefixes  
*Rhetoric:* consonance, assonance  
*Etymology:* a-, ab- (prefix), abundant; interurban, suburb, suburban, urban urbane, urbanity, urbanization, *la urbe* (Sp.), *urbain* (Fr.), *urbano* (It.); abscond, recondite, sconce

**alea iacta est**

*Translation:* the die has been cast  
*Notes:* often, “the die is cast”; words attributed to Julius Caesar when he crossed the Rubicon River January 9, 49 B.C.; Caesar’s pivotal decision to cross the Rubicon and march on Rome with his army marked the beginning of the Civil War in Rome; compares Caesar’s deliberate decision to march upon Rome to the throw of the dice in a high-risk situation; indicates an irrevocable decision with no turning back; passing the point of no return on a momentous decision and entering into a risky endeavor where the outcome is left to chance  
*Teaching Points:* subject/verb agreement, perfect passive tense  
*Rhetoric:* assonance, metaphor, imagery, allusion  
*Etymology:* aleatory, “aleatory contract” (Leg.), *l’alea* (Fr.), *aleatorio* (It.); abject, adjective, conjecture, dejected, eject, inject, injection, interjection, jet, jett, jut, object, objection, project, rejected, rejection, subject, trajectory, *jeter* (Fr.)

**alter ego**

*Translation:* another self  
*Notes:* literally, “another I”; suggests either a very close and inseparable friend or another side of one’s own personality; often used to describe the other personality or secret identity of a fictional character, such as Dr. Jekyll, Clark Kent, or Bruce Wayne  
*Teaching Points:* adjectives, personal pronouns  
*Etymology:* adulterate, adultery, alibi, alien, alter, alteration, altercation, alternate, alternative, altruistic, unadulterated, unaltered; *otro* (Sp.), ego, ego-centric, egotism, egotistical, *yo* (Sp.), *egoiste* (Fr.)
Anno Domini
Translation: in the year of the Lord
Notes: in the [specified] year of the Christian era; abbreviated "A.D.", as in "A.D. 2015", and shortened from Anno Domini Nostri Iesu Christi; year reckoning in the Christian era from the year of Jesus Christ’s birth; based on the Gregorian calendar. “Annus Mirabilis: To British poet John Dryden, the "year of wonders" was 1666. That was the year of a great British naval victory over the Dutch, as well as the date of the great London fire. When he titled his 1667 poetic review of 1666 and its events Annus Mirabilis, Dryden became one of the first writers to use that Latinate phrase in an otherwise English context. Annus mirabilis is a direct translation from New Latin, the form of Latin that has been used since the end of the medieval period (especially for scientific descriptions and classification). The phrase is not extremely common, but it is used by writers and historians to denote any particularly remarkable year” [from Merriam-Webster’s Word-of-the-Day, January 1, 2016].
Teaching Points: ablative of time when, genitive construction
Rhetoric: consonance, assonance
Etymology: annals, anniversary, annual, annuity, biennial, centennial, millennium, perennial, solemn, superannuate, el año, (Sp.), l’an (Fr.), l’anno (It.); dame, damsel, danger, daunt, daunting, domain, dominant, dominate, domineering, dominion, domino, indomitable, Donna, dungeon, madam, predominate, Dominica dies (Lat.), la dama, el domingo, Doña (Sp.)

ante meridiem
Translation: before midday
Notes: pertaining to the time before noon; abbreviated "a.m.", as in "9:30 a.m."; indicates the 12 hours in a day from midnight till noon; cf. post meridiem
Teaching Points: preposition + accusative, prepositions as prefixes
Rhetoric: consonance, assonance
Etymology: ante- (prefix), ancestor, anterior, antediluvian, antepenultimate, antic, antique, antiquity; adjourn, adjournment, meridian, meridional, dial, diary, diurnal, journey, journal, quotidian, sine die (Lat.), el día, el mediodía (Sp.)

ars gratia artis
Translation: art for the sake of art
Notes: art is valuable in itself as art; the pursuit of art needs no utilitarian or moral purpose; the motto of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios, Inc., a media corporation since the early 20th century; MGM realized its greatest financial success of later years with the remake of the 1925 hit silent film Ben-Hur, based on the novel by General Lew Wallace; the 1959 release of the 4-hour technicolor epic Ben-Hur, starring Charlton Heston in the title role, won 11 Academy Awards including Best Picture, a record held until matched in 1997 by Titanic.
Teaching Points: ablative construction, genitive construction; cf. exempli gratia
Rhetoric: alliteration, consonance, assonance
Etymology: art, artful, artifice, artificial, artillery, artisan, artist, artistic, artistry, artless, inert, inertia, el arte, la artesanía, artesano (Sp.), l’art, l’artiste (Fr.), l’arte, l’artista (It.); agree, congratulate, congratulations, disagree, disagreeable, disgrace, grace, graceful, gracious, grateful, gratification, gratify, gratitude, gratuity, ingrate, ingratitude, ingratitude, ungracious, ungrateful, persona non grata (Leg.), la gracia, ¡Muchas gracias! (Sp.), la disgrace, la grâce, (Fr.), la grazia (It.)
bis das si cito das
Translation: you give twice if you give quickly
Notes: also bis dat qui dat celeriter from Publilius Syrus, 225
Teaching Points: numbers, numeration, adverbs, present tense
Rhetoric: parallelism, consonance, assonance, antistrophe, chiasmus (bis dat qui dat celeriter)
Etymology: balance, biceps, bicycle, biennial, bigamy, bilateral, billion, binary, binocular, binomial, bipartite, biped, biscuit, bisect, bivalve, combination, combine, counterbalance, unbalance, well-balanced, bis, le biscuit (Fr.), biscotti (It.); citation, cite, excite, excitable, excitedly, excitement, exciting, incite, incitement, recital, recite, recitation, resuscitate, solicit, solicitation, solicitous, solicitute; add, addenda, addendum, addition, condition, data, date, dative,datum, donate, donor, dowry, edit, edition, perdition, tradition, traitor, dar (Sp.)

bona fide
Translation: in good faith
Notes: with good faith; genuine, sincere; without fraud or deceit; made in good faith; opposite of mala fide; also bona fides (good faith, honesty)
Teaching Points: ablative construction, noun/adjective agreement
Etymology: bonanza, boon, bonbon, bonus, bounteous, bountiful, bounty, debonair, pro bono publico (Lat.), bueno (Sp.), bon (Fr.); affidavit, confide, confidence, defy, diffidence, diffident, fiancé, fiancée, fidelity, infidel, infidelity, perfidy, perfidious, la fe, fiel (Sp.), défier, fidèle (Fr.), fedele (It.)

carpe diem
Translation: seize the day
Notes: from Horace, Odes I.11: carpe diem quam minimum credula postero; enjoy today, trust little to tomorrow; enjoy the present moment; take advantage of every opportunity; seize the present opportunity
Teaching Points: imperative mood, direct object
Rhetoric: metonymy
Etymology: carpet, excerpt, scarce, scarcely, scarcity; adjourn, adjournment, dismal, meridian, meridional, dial, diary, diurnal, journey, journal, quotidian, dies mali (Lat.), sine die (Leg.), el día, el mediodía (Sp.)

caveat emptor
Translation: let the buyer beware
Notes: buyer beware; the buyer purchases at his or her own risk; a contract principle based upon early common law
Teaching Points: present subjunctive, suffix –tor
Rhetoric: consonance, assonance
Etymology: caution, cautious, cautiously, caveat, incautious, precaution, precautionary, la caución, caucionar, la cautela (Sp.); emporium, exempt, exemption, impromptu, preempt, preemptive, prompt, promptness, redeem, redemption,

cave canem
Translation: beware of the dog
Notes: phrase found on the threshold of a Pompeian house; constellations Canis major, Canis minor; in Roald Dahl’s “Beware of the Dog” the author incorporates an interesting language twist at the end of his short story about a British RAF pilot in World War II; the Canary Islands were so called because of a large breed of dogs that inhabited one of the islands
Teaching Points: imperative mood, direct object
Rhetoric: alliteration, assonance
Etymology: caution, cautious, cautiously, caveat, incautious, precaution, precautionary, la caución, caucionar, la cautela (Sp.); canary, Canary Islands, canine, chenille, kennel, canino (Sp.), il cane (It.)
citius altius fortius
Translation: faster, higher, stronger
Notes: motto of the Olympics
Teaching Points: comparative degree of adverbs
Rhetoric: consonance, assonance, asyndeton,
Etymology: citation, cite, excite, excitable, excitedly, excitement, exciting, incite, incitement, recital, recite, recitation, resuscitate, solicit, solicitation, solicitor, solicitous, solicitude; altar, altitude, alto, alto-cumulus (Meteorol.), contralto, enhance, exalt, exaltation, haughtily, haughtiness, haut, hauteur, oboe, alto (Sp.), alto (It.); comfort, comfortable, discomfort, effort, enforce, force, forcible, fort, fortress, fortify, fortitude, pianoforte, reinforce, a fortiori (Leg.), fuerte (Sp.), fort (Fr.), forte (It.)

cogito ergo sum
Translation: I think, therefore I am
Notes: philosophical proposition by René Descartes, *Principles of Philosophy* (1644); Descartes’ first principle to resolve universal doubt and prove his own existence
Teaching Points: present tense, conjunctions, conjugation of sum
Rhetoric: consonance, assonance
Etymology: cogitation, cogitate, cogitator; ergo; absence, entity, essence, essential, presence, present, quintessence, quintessential, represent, esencial (Sp.)

cum grano salis
Translation: with a grain of salt
Notes: not to be taken seriously; approach with a bit of common sense and skepticism; consider with some reservation
Teaching Points: preposition + ablative, genitive construction, prepositions as prefixes
Rhetoric: synecdoche, metaphor, imagery
Etymology: co-, col-, com-, con-, cor- (prefix); grain, granary, engrained, filigree, garner, garnet, grange, granite, granulated, pomegranate, el grano (Sp.); desalinate, salad, salary, saline, salsa, sauce, saucy, sausage, la sal (Sp.), le sel (Fr.), il sale (It.)

deus ex machina
Translation: a god from a machine
Notes: originally a theatrical device whereby the solution to a difficulty in the drama is solved by the appearance of a deity who is brought into the scene by a stage machine; a contrived or artificial solution to a literary plot
Teaching Points: preposition + ablative, prepositions as prefixes
Rhetoric: assonance, imagery, deus ex machina literary device
Etymology: adieu, deification, deiform, deify, deist, deity, divine, divination, divinity, el dios, la diosa (Sp.), le dieu (Fr.), il dio (It.); e-, ex- (prefix); machination, machine, la máquina (Sp.), la macchina (It.)

docendo discitur
Translation: by teaching, it is learned
Notes: by teaching, we learn; a similar phrase *docendo discimus* (we learn by teaching) from Seneca the Younger, *Epistulae Morales*
Teaching Points: gerund, passive voice
Rhetoric: alliteration, consonance, assonance
Etymology: docent, docile, doctor, doctrine, document, documentation, indoctrinate, el/la docente (Sp.); disciple, disciplinary, discipline, undisciplined, disciplinar, la disciplina, el discípulo (Sp.)
**dum spiro, spero**
*Translation:* while I breathe, I hope
*Notes:* motto of South Carolina; modern paraphrase of idea found in Cicero *ad Atticum* 9, 10, 3, and in Theocritus *Idylls* 4, 42
*Teaching Points:* present tense
*Rhetoric:* alliteration, consonance, rhyme
*Etymology:* aspire, aspirate, aspiration, conspire, conspiracy, expire, inspiration, inspire, perspire, respiration, respiratory, spirit, spiritual, sprightly, transpire, *respirar* (Sp.), *respirer* (Fr.), *respirare* (It.); despair, desperado, desperate, desperation, *esperar* (Sp.), *espoir* (Fr.), *sperare* (It.)

**dux femina facti**
*Translation:* the leader of the deed [was] a woman
*Notes:* a woman was the leader of the deed; Vergil, *Aeneid*, I.364; word order emphasizes the strength of Dido as a leader, taking her people from the land of Phoenicia to Carthage to escape her evil brother Pygmalion
*Teaching Points:* nominative forms, genitive construction
*Rhetoric:* alliteration, ellipsis, anastrophe
*Etymology:* abduct, adduce, conducive, conduit, deduce, deduction, ducal, duchess, duke, educate, education, induce, introduce, produce, reduction, viaduct, *inducir, traducir* (Sp.), *conduire* (Fr.); feminine, femininity, effeminate, *femenino* (Sp.), *la femme* (Fr.); affect, affection, artifact, confection, counterfeit, defeat, deficit, deficiency, difficult, effect, efficacy, efficient, facile, facility, facsimile, fact, factor, factotum, factory, factual, faculty, infect, infection, manufacture, office, officious, perfect, perfection, proficient, sacrifice, suffice, sufficient, surfeit, *factual, hacer, la hacienda* (Sp.), *faire* (Fr.)

**e pluribus unum**
*Translation:* out of many, one
*Notes:* motto of the United States; on the Presidential Seal and on the US dollar bill; in the movie *The Wizard of Oz*, the Scarecrow is given a diploma from the “Society of E Pluribus Unum”
*Teaching Points:* preposition + ablative, prepositions as prefixes
*Rhetoric:* assonance
*Etymology:* e-, ex- (prefix); plural, plurality, plus, *plural, la pluralidad* (Sp.); reunion, reunite, unicorn, unify, union, united, *uno* (Sp.), *un* (Fr.)

**esse quam videri**
*Translation:* to be rather than to seem
*Notes:* motto of North Carolina; from Cicero, *De Amicitia* xxvi.98; from Sallust, *Bellum Civile* 54.6
*Teaching Points:* present infinitives, passive infinitives
*Rhetoric:* assonance
*Etymology:* absence, entity, essence, essential, presence, present, quintessence, quinntessential, represent, *esencial* (Sp.); evident, improvise, providence, prudent, supervision, survey, video, vision, *ver* (Sp.), *voir* (Fr.), *vedere* (It.)

**Et tu, Brute!**
*Translation:* “Even you, Brutus?”
*Notes:* the famous words spoken by Caesar [in Shakespeare’s play] upon seeing Brutus among his assassins on March 15, 44 B.C. (*Julius Caesar*, Act III, Scene i); Plutarch quotes Caesar as speaking the words in Greek; Suetonius describes Caesar as dying without speaking (*The Twelve Caesars*, *Book I*, LXXXII)
*Teaching Points:* personal pronouns, vocative forms, direct address
*Rhetoric:* consonance, assonance
*Etymology:* & (ampersand), et cetera, etc.; *tu* (Sp., Fr., It.)
Excelsior!
Translation: Ever higher!
Notes: Ever upward! More lofty! Still higher! motto of New York State
Teaching Points: comparative degree
Etymology: excel, excellence, excellent, excelente (Sp.)

exempli gratia
Translation: for the sake of example
Notes: for example; abbreviated “e.g.”; from Quintilian
Teaching Points: ablative construction, genitive construction; cf. ars gratia artis; the three Graces/Gratiae - Euphrosyne, Aclaia, and Thalia
Rhetoric: assonance
Etymology: example, exemplary, exemplify, sample, el ejemplo (Sp.); agree, congratulate, congratulations, disagree, disagreeable, disgrace, grace, graceful, gracious, grateful, gratification, gratify, gratitude, gratuity, ingrate, ingratiating, ingratitude, ungracious, ungrateful, persona non grata (Leg.), la gracia, ¡Muchas gracias! (Sp.), la disgrace, la grâce, (Fr.), la grazia (It.)

ex post facto
Translation: from after the fact
Notes: from what is done afterwards; after a deed is done; at a later period of time; later; Article I of the U.S. Constitution prohibits the passing of an ex post facto law to protect the people from punishment for doing something for which no law existed at that time
Teaching Points: preposition + ablative; prepositions as prefixes
Etymology: e-, ex- (prefix); post- (prefix), preposterous, a posteriori (Leg.); affect, affection, artifact, confection, counterfeit, defeat, deficit, deficiency, difficult, effect, efficacy, efficient, facile, facility, facsimile, fact, factor, factotum, factory, factual, faculty, infect, infection, manufacture, office, officious, perfect, perfection, proficient, sacrifice, suffice, sufficient, surfeit, factual, hacer, la hacienda (Sp.), faire (Fr.)

facta non verba
Translation: deeds not words
Notes: actions not words [are what matter, are what count]
Teaching Points: neuter plural nouns
Rhetoric: assonance, ellipsis
Etymology: affect, affection, artifact, confection, counterfeit, defeat, deficit, deficiency, difficult, effect, efficacy, efficient, facile, facility, facsimile, fact, factor, factotum, factory, factual, faculty, infect, infection, manufacture, office, officious, perfect, perfection, proficient, sacrifice, suffice, sufficient, surfeit, factual, hacer, la hacienda (Sp.), faire (Fr.); nonentity; adverb, proverbial, verb, verbal, verbatim, verbose, verbal, el verbo (Sp.), le verbe (Fr.)

festina lente
Translation: make haste slowly
Notes: a caution to take one’s time; attributed to Augustus
Teaching Points: imperative mood, adverbs
Rhetoric: oxymoron, assonance
Etymology: festinate, festination; lentic, lentamente, lento (Sp.), lent (Fr.), lento (It.)
**fiat lux**

*Translation:* let there be light

*Notes:* From *Genesis 1:3,* *dixitque Deus fiat lux et facta est lux* ("And God said let there be light, and there was light"); motto of many schools and colleges, including the California system of universities; see also *fiat iustitia, ruat caelum*

*Teaching Points:* subjunctive verb forms, forms of *fio*, independent subjunctives

*Rhetoric:* metaphor, imagery

*Etymology:* *fiat*; elucidate, illuminate, lucent, lucid, Lucifer, pellucid, translucent, *el lucero, la luz* (Sp.), *la luce* (It.)

**habeas corpus**

*Translation:* you may have the body

*Notes:* legal term; common-law writ issued to bring a party before a court or judge; the right of a citizen against illegal imprisonment

*Teaching Points:* subjunctive mood, neuter nominative forms

*Rhetoric:* consonance, assonance

*Etymology:* able, ability, debilitate, exhibit, habit, habitat, habitation, habitual, inhabitable, inhibit, prohibit, *haber, la habilidad, la prohibición* (Sp.), *habillement, habiller* (Fr.); corporal, corporation, corpse, corpulent, incorporate, *corpulento, el cuerpo* (Sp.), *le corps* (Fr.), *il corpo* (It.)

**in deo speramus**

*Translation:* in God we hope

*Notes:* in God we trust; motto on U.S. currency; motto of Brown University

*Teaching Points:* preposition + ablative, present tense, prepositions as prefixes

*Etymology:* in- (prefix); adieu, deification, deiform, deify, deist, deity, divine, divination, divinity, *el dios, la diosa* (Sp.), *le dieu* (Fr.), *il dio* (It.); despair, desperado, desperate, desperation, prosper, prosperity, *esperar, la esperanza* (Sp.), *l’espoir* (Fr.), *la speranza* (It.)

**in loco parentis**

*Translation:* in the place of a parent

*Notes:* legal term, from English common law, indicating the duty of a person or institution to assume the responsibility of a parent

*Teaching Points:* preposition + ablative, genitive construction, prepositions as prefixes

*Etymology:* in- (prefix); allocate, allocation, collocation, dislocate, dislocation, lieutenant, local, locale, location, locative, locate, locomotive, *el local* (Sp.); parent, parental, *el/la pariente* (Sp.)

**in medias res**

*Translation:* into the middle of things

*Notes:* into the middle of the matter; often, into the middle of a narrative or plot; used specifically of beginning a narrative with some important event instead of that which occurs first chronologically; Horace, *Ars poetica,* 148; Homer and Vergil both use this technique in their epics

*Teaching Points:* preposition + accusative, prepositions as prefixes

*Rhetoric:* consonance, assonance, *in medias res* literary device

*Etymology:* in- (prefix); immediate, immediately, intermediary, intermediate, media, medial, mediate, mediation, mediator, medieval, mediocre, mediocrity, medium, Mediterranean, *medio, el mediodía* (Sp.); real, realia, reality, realize, rebus, *in re, in rem, res communis, res gestae, res publica, res ipsa loquitur* (Leg.), *res publica* (Lat.)
ipso facto
Translation: by the fact itself
Notes: by the very fact; as an inevitable result; legal term also used in science and philosophy
Teaching Points: intensive pronouns, ablative construction
Rhetoric: assonance
Etymology: affect, affection, artifact, confection, counterfeit, defeat, deficit, deficiency, difficult, effect, efficacy, efficient, facile, facility, facsimile, fact, factor, factotum, factory, factual, faculty, infect, infection, manufacture, office, officious, perfect, perfection, proficient, sacrifice, suffice, sufficient, surfeit, factual, hacer, la hacienda (Sp.), faire (Fr.)

lapsus linguae
Translation: slip of the tongue
Notes: also lapsus memoriae (slip of memory) and lapsus calami (slip of the pen)
Teaching Points: genitive construction
Rhetoric: alliteration, metonymy
Etymology: collapse, lapse, prolapse; bilingual, language, lingo, linguist, linguistics, collapsar, la lengua, el lenguaje (Sp.), la langue (Fr.), la lingua (It.)

lux et veritas
Translation: light and truth
Notes: motto of Yale University
Teaching Points: nominative forms
Rhetoric: metaphor, metonymy, imagery, hendiadys
Etymology: elucidate, lucent, lucid, Lucifer, pellucid, translucent, el lucero, la luz (Sp.), la luce (It.); et al., & (ampersand), et cetera, etc., et seq.; aver, veracious, veracity, verdict, verify, verification, verily, verisimilar, veritable, very, la verdad, veraz, (Sp.), la vérité (Fr.), la verità (It.)

mea culpa
Translation: my fault
Notes: through or by my fault; acknowledgement of one’s fault or error; a statement acknowledging that something is your fault
Teaching Points: adjective/noun agreement, possessive adjectives
Etymology: me, mine, my, meo (Sp.), mon (Fr.); culpability, culpable, culprit, exculpatory, inculpable, inculpate, la culpa, la culpabilidad, culpable, culpar (Sp.), la culpabilità (Fr.), il colpevole (It.)

mirabile dictu
Translation: Wonderful to speak!
Notes: Marvelous to say! Strange to tell! from Vergil, Aeneid I.439
Teaching Points: adverbs, supine
Rhetoric: exclamation
Etymology: admirable, admire, miracle, miraculous, mirage, mirror, mirar (Sp.) le mirage, le miroir (Fr.); abdicate, benediction, contradict, dictate, dictator, diction, dictionary, edict, indict, index, indicative, judge, judgment, judicious, jurisdiction, malediction, predicate, predict, prediction, valedictory, valedictorian, verdict, vindicate, vindicative, decir (Sp.), dire (Fr., It.)
modus operandi
Translation: method of operating
Notes: mode or method of working; abbreviation “m.o.”; way of doing something, as in a thief’s m.o.
Teaching Points: gerund, declension of gerund
Rhetoric: consonance, assonance
Etymology: accommodate, commodious, mode, model, modest, modify, modulate, modulation, modus, el modelo, el modo (Sp.), la mode (Fr.), il modo (It.); cooperate, cooperation, inoperable, opera, operate, operatic, operator, opus, operar (Sp.)

mos maiorum
Translation: the custom of (our) ancestors
Notes: core concept of the Romans; unwritten code of laws based on tradition and custom; mores maiorum
Teaching Points: genitive construction, irregular comparative degree of adjectives
Rhetoric: alliteration, consonance, assonance
Etymology: demoralize, immoral, moral, morale, morality, mores, contra bonos mores (Leg.), moral (Sp.); majestic, majesty, major, majorette, majority, majuscule, mayor, los mayores (Sp.)

multum in parvo
Translation: much in little
Notes: great things in a small place; modern equivalent "Big things come in small packages"
Teaching Points: preposition + ablative, adjectives as substantives, prepositions as prefixes
Rhetoric: oxymoron, assonance, consonance, ellipsis
Etymology: multifarious, multiform. multiple, multiplication, multiplicity, multiply, multitude, multitudinous, mucho, la multitud, muy (Sp.), molto (It.); in- (prefix)

ne plus ultra
Translation: nothing more beyond
Notes: the highest point capable of being attained; the summit of achievement; the acme; the most profound degree of a quality or state
Teaching Points: adverbs
Rhetoric: consonance, assonance
Etymology: plural, plurality, plus, surplus, plus (Sp.), ultimate, penultimate, antepenultimate, ultra, ultramarine, ultraviolet, último (Sp.), l’ultimo (It.)

nolo contendere
Translation: I do not want to fight
Notes: I am unwilling to contend, fight [the accusation]; plea submitted whereby the accused does not dispute or admit guilt but accepts the judgment of conviction as in a plea of guilty; non vult contendere, 3rd person singular form; see also nolens volens and noli me tangere
Teaching Points: irregular verb forms of nolo and volo, present infinitive, complementary infinitive
Rhetoric: consonance, assonance
Etymology: nolle prosequi (Leg.), non voler (It.); contend, contender, contentious
non sequitur
Translation: it does not follow
Notes: indicates a statement or event that makes no sense in connection with the previous one
Teaching Points: deponent verb forms
Etymology: prefix non-, nobody, nonentity, nonstop, non (Sp.); consecutive, consequence, consequent, ensue, execute, execution, inconsequential, obsequious, persecute, persecution, prosecute, prosecution, pursue, pursuit, second, sequel, sequence, subsequent, sue, suit, suitable, suite, suitor, seguir, según (Sp.), suivre (It.), suivre, la suite, ensuivre, exécuter (Fr.)

nota bene
Translation: note well
Notes: abbreviated “N.B.”; take special notice [of something]
Teaching Points: imperative mood, adverbs
Etymology: connote, connotation, denote, notable, notary, notation, note, la nota, notable, notar (Sp.); Benedict, benediction, benefactor, beneficiary, benefit, benevolent, benign, bien (Sp., Fr.), bene (It.)

omnia vincit amor
Translation: love conquers all
Notes: from Vergil, Eclogues, X.69: omnia vincit amor: et nos cedamus amori
Teaching Points: neuter plural forms, present tense, nominative singular forms
Rhetoric: assonance, consonance
Etymology: omni- (combining form), omnibus, omnifarious, omniscient, omnivore, ogni (It.); convince, convict, conviction, evict, evince, invincible, victim, victorious, victory, vencer (Sp.), vaincre (Fr.), vincere (It.); amateur, amatory, amicable, amity, amiable, amorous, inimical, el amor (Sp.), l’amateur, l’amie, l’amour (Fr.)

pater patriae
Translation: father of the country
Notes: father of his country; abbreviated as “P.P.” on coins; Julius Caesar received this honor, as did Marius, Cicero, Augustus, Trajan, et al.; George Washington is known as the Father of Our Country
Teaching Points: genitive construction
Rhetoric: alliteration, assonance, consonance
Etymology: expatriate, Jupiter, paternal, paternity, Patrick, Patricia, patrician, patrimony, patriot, patriotism, patron, unpatriotic, el padre, la patria (Sp.), la patrie (Fr.), la patria (It.)

pax vobiscum
Translation: peace [be] with you
Notes: ecclesiastical term
Teaching Points: personal pronouns, preposition cum attached to end of pronoun; cf. vademecum
Rhetoric: ellipsis
Etymology: appease, Pacific Ocean, pacifier, pacify, la paz (Sp.), la pace (It.); vos, vosotros (Sp.); com- (prefix)

post meridiem
Translation: after noon, after midday
Notes: abbreviated “p.m.”; indicates the hours in a day from noon till midnight; cf. ante meridiem
Teaching Points: preposition + accusative, prepositions as prefixes
Rhetoric: consonance, assonance
Etymology: post- (prefix); diurnal, diurnal arc (Astron.), diurnation (Zool.), meridian, meridional, dial, el día, el mediodía (Sp.)
**post mortem**
*Translation:* after death
*Notes:* an autopsy; an examination after death; occurring, made, formed, or done after death; an *ex post facto* examination or analysis
*Teaching Points:* preposition + accusative, prepositions as prefixes
*Rhetoric:* consonance, assonance
*Etymology:* post- (prefix); immortal, immortalize, mortal, mortician, mortify, mortuary, *la muerte, muerto* (Sp.), *la mort* (Fr.), *la morte* (It.)

**quid pro quo**
*Translation:* something for something
*Notes:* one thing for or in place of another; an equivalent; something in return; tit for tat; a phrase sometimes used in trade agreements, suggesting “a favor for a favor”
*Teaching Points:* relative pronouns, preposition + ablative, prepositions as prefixes
*Rhetoric:* alliteration, assonance
*Etymology:* quiddity, quidnunc; pro- (prefix), *pro forma, pro rata, pro tem.* (Leg.); quorum, quota, quotidian, quotient, *la cuota* (Sp.)

**rara avis**
*Translation:* a rare bird
*Notes:* a rarity; an extraordinary or unusually excellent person or thing; something or someone unusual; Juvenal, *Satires* 6.165
*Teaching Points:* noun/adjective agreement
*Rhetoric:* metaphor, synecdoche, imagery, assonance, consonance
*Etymology:* rare, rarity, *raro* (Sp.); augur, auspices, auspicious, avian, aviary, inaugurate, inauguration, inauspicious, *el ave* (Sp.)

**requiescat in pace**
*Translation:* may he (or she) rest in peace
*Notes:* abbreviated R.I.P., oftentimes used on tombstones; a “requiescat” is a prayer for the repose of the deceased
*Teaching Points:* subjunctive mood, preposition + ablative, prepositions as prefixes
*Rhetoric:* epitaph
*Etymology:* acquiesce, disquiet, quiet, quietly, quietude, requiem, requiescat; in- (prefix); pacify, pacifier, Pacific Ocean, peace, *la paz* (Sp.), *la pace* (It.)

**semper fidelis**
*Translation:* always faithful
*Notes:* always loyal; motto of the U.S. Marine Corps; title of the USMC march, “*Semper Fidelis*” by John Phillips Sousa
*Teaching Points:* adverbs, adjectives
*Rhetoric:* consonance, assonance
*Etymology:* Sempervivant (Bot.), semperannual, semperjuvenescent, sempiternal, *siempre* (Sp.), *sempre* (It.); diffidence, diffident, fidelity, infidel, infidelity, *la fe, fiel* (Sp.)
semper paratus
Translation: always prepared
Notes: always ready; motto of the U.S. Coast Guard
Teaching Points: adverbs, adjectives
Rhetoric: consonance, assonance
Etymology: Sempervivant (Bot.), semperannual, semperjuvenescent, sempiternal, siempre (Sp.), sempre (It.); apparatus, apparel, compare, comparison, comparative, inseparable, irreparable, parade, parry, preparation, prepare, repair, separate, sever, several, preparado, preparer (Sp.), l’appareil, comparer, parer, preparer, réparer, sevrer (Fr.), preparare (It.)

sine qua non
Translation: without which nothing
Notes: an indispensable thing or condition; something indispensable; a necessity
Teaching Points: preposition + ablative, relative pronouns, prepositions as prefixes
Etymology: sin-, sine- (prefix), sincere, sincerity, sincerely, sinecure, sine die (Leg.); quorum, quota, quotidian, quotient, la cuota (Sp.); nonchalant, nondenominational, nonstop, nonentity

tabula rasa
Translation: a scraped tablet, a smoothed tablet
Notes: a blank slate, a blank tablet; the phrase originates from the Roman writing tablet (tabula rasa) which was “erased” clean by smoothing the waxed surface with the end of the stylus; the phrase refers to the mind before it receives impressions from the senses which react to experiences and develop them as knowledge.
Teaching Points: noun/adjective agreement; Roman waxed tablet and stylus; Roman tablinum and tabularium
Rhetoric: assonance, metaphor, imagery
Etymology: entablature, table, tableau, tablet, tabloid, tabulare (Zool., Paleo.), tabulate, la tabla, la tableta, tablear, (Sp.); abrade, abrasion, erase, eraser, erasure, rase, rasion, rasorial, raser (Fr.), rasare (It.)

tempus edax rerum
Translation: time [is] the devourer of things
Notes: Ovid, Metamorphoses, Book 15.234
Teaching Points: neuter nominative forms, genitive construction
Rhetoric: ellipsis, metaphor, personification, imagery
Etymology: contemporary, extemporaneous, temperance, temporal, temporary, temporize, pro tempore (Leg.), el tiempo (Sp.), le temps (Fr.), il tempo (It.); eat, edacious, edacity, edible, inedible; real, realia, reality, realize, rebus, in re, in rem, res communis, res gestae, res publica, res ipsa loquitur (Leg.), res publica (Lat.)

tempus fugit
Translation: time flies
Notes: Vergil’s Georgics III.284; Latin phrase often found on sundials
Teaching Points: neuter nominative forms, present tense
Rhetoric: personification, metaphor, imagery, consonance, assonance
Etymology: contemporary, extemporaneous, temperance, temporal, temporary, temporize, pro tempore (Leg.), el tiempo (Sp.), le temps (Fr.), il tempo (It.); centrifugal, fugacious, fugitive, fugue, refugee, subterfuge, fuir (Fr.), fuggire (It.)
ubi mel, ibi apes
Translation: where [there is] honey, there [are] bees
Notes: Plautus; compare to “where there’s smoke, there’s fire”
Teaching Points: conjunctions, nominative forms
Rhetoric: assonance, consonance, parallelism, ellipsis, imagery
Etymology: alibi, ubiquitous, ubiquity; marmalade, melliferous, mellifluous, mellisonant, mellite (Pharm.), mellivorous, Melissa, molasses, la miel (Sp.), le miel (Fr.), il miele (It.); ibidem, ibid.; apian, apiary, apiculture, la abeja, la apicultura (Sp.)

vade mecum
Translation: go with me
Notes: a book ready for reference; something regularly carried by a person; a manual, a handbook
Teaching Points: present imperative, personal pronouns, preposition + ablative, prepositions as prefixes, preposition cum attached to end of pronoun; cf. pax vobiscum
Rhetoric: consonance, assonance
Etymology: evade, evasion, invade, invasion, pervade, pervasive, vade mecum; me; co-, cog-, col-, com- con-, cor- (prefix)

veni, vidi, vici
Translation: I came, I saw, I conquered
Notes: Attributed to Julius Caesar by Suetonius, Divus Julius, 37.2; message supposedly sent by Julius Caesar to the Roman Senate describing his battle against King Pharnaces II near Zela in 47 B.C.
Teaching Points: perfect tense forms, principal parts of verbs
Rhetoric: alliteration, adventure, circumvent, convene, convenient, convention, intervene, intervention, invent, inventory, prevent, revenue, vent, venturesome, venir (Sp.), l’événement, venir, l’avenue (Fr.), venir (It.); advise, advisable, envy, evident, evidence, improvise, invidious, provide, Providence, provident, province, prudent, revise, revision, supervise, survey, video, view, visa, visage, visible, vision, visionary, visit, vista, visual, ver, (Sp.), l’envie, la visage, voir (Fr.), vedere, la vista (It.); convict, conviction, convince, evict, evince, invincible, vanquish, Victor, Victoria, victorious, victory, vencer, Vicente (Sp.), vaincre (Fr.), vincere (It.)

verbum sapienti sat est
Translation: a word to the wise is sufficient
Notes: enough said; the listener can fill in the rest
Teaching Points: dative construction, verb esse, adjectives as substantives
Rhetoric: consonance, assonance, alliteration, synecdoche
Etymology: verb, verbal, verbalization, verbatim, verbiage, verbose, verbal, el verbo (Sp.); insipid, sapid, sapience, sapient, saporous, savant, el sabor, sabroso (Sp.), sapere (It.); insatiable, satiety, satisfaction, satisfy, satire, satirical; absence, essence, essential, present, ser (Sp.)
**verbum volat scripta manent**

*Translation:* the [spoken] word flies, written [words] remain; words disappear, writings remain

*Notes:* possibly from a famous speech by Caius Titus at the Roman Senate; the phrase speaks to the permanence of the written word as opposed to the spoken word; the meaning of the phrase suggests that it is best to put an agreement in writing rather than simply rely on an oral agreement

*Teaching Points:* subject/verb agreement, participles as substantives

*Etymology:* verb, verbal, verbalize, verbose, *la verba* (Sp.); volary, volatile; circumscribe, conscription, describe, description, inscribe, postscript, P.S., prescription, scribble, scribe, scripture, transcription, *escribir, inscribir* (Sp.), *écrit* (Fr.), *scrivere* (It.); mansion, permanent, remain, remnant, *permanecer, permanente* (Sp.)

**vincit qui se vincit**

*Translation:* he conquers who conquers himself

*Notes:* he wins who [first] conquers himself; also written *bis vincit qui se vincit:* he conquers twice who [in the hour of conquest] conquers himself. The motto is written on the Beast’s stained glass window in Disney’s “Beauty and the Beast”. *Invictus,* derived from the Latin verb *vinco,* is the name of the 1888 poem by the British poet William Ernest Henley. The verses were written by Henley who was inspired by recollections of his childhood of poverty and the more recent successful recovery from extensive surgeries to save Henley’s remaining leg. These difficult circumstances are believed to play a major role in the poem’s meaning. “Invictus” is also the 2009 biographical sports film about the events before and during the 1995 Rugby World Cup hosted by South Africa; the film describes the challenges facing Nelson Mandela newly elected as President of the country after the dismantling of apartheid. In the film Mandela presents a copy of Henley’s *Invictus* to Francois Pienaar, captain of the national South African rugby team. President Barack Obama quoted the last stanza of *Invictus* in his memorial speech for Nelson Mandela: “I am the master of my fate: I am the captain of my soul.”

*Teaching Points:* relative pronouns, reflexive pronouns, present tense forms

*Rhetoric:* chiasmus, alliteration, consonance, assonance

*Etymology:* convict, conviction, convince, evict, evince, victim, *Invictus,* invincible, vanquish, Victor, Victoria, victorious, victory, *vencer, Vicente* (Sp.), *vaincre* (Fr.), *vincere* (It.); *quorum, quota, quotidian, quotient; per se* (Leg.), suicidal, suicide, *se* (Sp.)

**vox faucibus haesit**

*Translation:* [my] voice stuck in [my] throat

*Notes:* Vergil, Aeneid II.774: *obstipui, steteruntque comae et vox faucibus haesit*; Aeneas describing the moment, during the siege of Troy, when searching for his wife Creusa, he encountered her sorrowful ghost instead

*Teaching Points:* ablative constructions, perfect tense forms

*Rhetoric:* consonance, personification, imagery, synecdoche

*Etymology:* avocation, evocative, evoke, invocation, invoke, provocation, provoke, vocabulary, vocal, vocation, vociferous, voice, univocal, *vocal, vocalizer, la voz* (Sp.); faucal, fauces (Anat.), suffocate, *intra fauces terrae* (Leg.), *las fauces* (Sp.); adhere, adhesions, adhesive, coherence, cohesion, cohesive, incoherent, inherent, hesitate, *coherente* (Sp.)
PREFIX ETYMOLOGY

A number of the Latin phrases on the ruler include prepositions that are very frequently used as prefixes in English and in other languages. We have listed those prepositions along with a variety of words that are formed with these prepositional prefixes.

\[ a, ab \{a-, ab-, abs-\} \] (preposition + ablative): from, away from
abdi, abduct, abound, abrasion, abrupt, abscond, absent, absorb, abundance; \textit{la abducción, abrupto} (Sp.); \textit{absent, abstenir} (Fr.); \textit{aberrare, abolire, aborrirre} (It.)

\[ ante \{ante-, anti-\} \] (preposition + accusative): before
ante, antebellum, antecedent, antechamber, antediluvian, antepenultimate, anterior, antescript, anticipate; \textit{anteanoche, anterior, antes} (Sp.); \textit{l'antebois, antérieur} (Fr.); \textit{il antenato, la anticamera, il antipasto} (It.)

\[ cum \{co-, cog-, col-, com-, con-, cor-\} \] (preposition + ablative): with, together with
coherent, \textit{coincidence, collate, collection, commiserate, commit, companion, complex, complexion, composition, concord, conduct, confer, congregate, conjecture, congregate, correct, correlation, correspond; el contrato, la cooperación, convenir} (Sp.); \textit{combiner, le consommé, le codébiteur} (Fr.); \textit{il condominio, condurre, il collegamento, la coincidenza} (It.)

\[ e, ex \{e-, ec-, ef, ex-\} \] (preposition + ablative): from, out of
educate, eliminate, emerge, emigrate, examination, exclusive, excursion, excuse, exonerate, expedite, extemporaneous; \textit{la exclamación, excelente} (Sp.); \textit{l'extrémité, l'élite, l'émission} (Fr.); \textit{eletto, eliminare, estinto} (It.)

\[ in \{en-, il-, im-, in-, ir\} \] (preposition + accusative/ablative): into, onto (accusative); in, on (ablative)
impediment, incarcerate, incident, incisive, increase, induction, infer, influence, influenza, influx, inhabit, inject, innate, innuendo, inoculate, inscribe, insect, insight, inss, investigate, involve; \textit{inducer, la inspección} (Sp.); \textit{inciser, en route, enterer, l'entrée} (Fr.); \textit{il incavo, il incubo, inscrivere, insediare} (It.)

\[ post \] (preposition + accusative): behind, after
postdate, postdiluvian, posterior, posthumous, postmortem, posterity, postpone, postscript, preposterous; \textit{la posteridad, el postre} (Sp.); \textit{postériurement, posposer} (Fr.); \textit{il poscritto, posporre, los posteri} (It.)

\[ pro \] (preposition + ablative): for, before, in front of, on behalf of, in favor of
pro [and con], procrastinate, promise, pronoun, prospect, prosper; \textit{por, el propósito, la prosperidad} (Sp.); \textit{procurer, produire} (Fr.); \textit{il pro, la procura, progredire} (It.)
ab (prep. + ablative)
alea, aleae, f.
alter, altera, alterum
altus, alta, altum
amor, amoris, m.
annus, anni, m.
ante (prep. + accusative)
apis, apis, f.
ars, artis, f.
avis, avis, f.
bis
bonus, bona, bonum
bene
canis, canis, m.
carpo, carpere, carpsi, carptum
caveo, cavēre, cavi, cautum
citus, cita, citum
cogito, cogitare, cogitavi, cogitatum
condo, condere, condidi, conditum
contendo, contendere, contendi, contentum
culpa, culpae, f.
cum (prep + abl.)
deus, dei, m.
dico, dicere, dixi, dictum
dies, diei, m.
disco, discere, didici
do, dare, dedi, datum
doceo, docēre, docui, doctum
dominus, domini, m.
dum
dux, ducis, m.
ego, mei, mihi, me, me
emptor, emptoris, m.
e, ex (prep. + abl.)
edax, edacis, f.
ego
et
excelsus, excelsa, excelsum
exemplum, exempli, n.
facio, facere, feci, factum
factum, facti, n.
fauces, faucium, f.
femina, feminae, f.
festino, festinare, festinavi, festinatum
fidelis, fidele
fides, fidei, f.
fio, fieri, factus sum
fortis, forte
fugio, fugere, fugi, fugitum
granum, grani, n.
gratia, gratiae, f.
habeo, habère, habui, habitum
haereo, haerère, haesi, haesum
iacio, iacere, ieci, iactum
ibi
in (prep. + acc./abl.)
ipse, ipsa, ipsum
lapsus, lapsūs, m.
laus, laudis, f.
lintus, lenta, lentum
lingua, linguae, f.
locus, loci, m.
lux, lucis, f.
machina, machinae, f.
maior, maius
maneo, manère, mansi, mansum
medius, media, medium
mel, mellis, n.
meridies, meridiei, m.
meus, mea, meum
mirabilis, mirabile
modus, modi, m.
mors, mortis, f.
mor, moris, m.
multus, multa, multum
ne
nolo, nolle, nolui
non
notus, nota, notum
omnis, omne
operor, operari, operatus sum
paratus, parata, paratus
parent, parentis, m./f.
parvus, parva, parvum
pater, patris, m.
patria, patriae, f.
pax, pacis, f.
plus, pluris
post (prep. + acc.)
pro (prep. + abl.)
quam
qui, quae, quod
quis, quid
rado, radere, rasi, rasum
rarus, rara, rarum
res, rei, f.
requiesco, requiescere, requievi, requietum
sal, salis, m.
sapiens, sapientis
sat
scriptum, scripti, n.
semper
sequor, sequi, secutus sum
si
sine (prep. + abl)
spero, sperare, speravi, speratus
spiro, spirare, spiravi, spiratus
sui, sibi, se, se
sum, esse, fui, futurus
summus, summa, summum
tabula, tabulae, f.
tempus, temporis, n.
tu, tui, tibi, te, te
ubi
ulter, ultra, ultrum
unus, una, unum
urbs, urbis, f.
vado, vadere
venio, venire, veni, ventum
verbum, verbi, n.
veritas, veritatis, f.
video, vidēre, vidi, visum
vinco, vincere, vici, victum
volo, volare, volavi, volatum
vos, vestrum, vobis, vos, vobis
vox, vocis, f.

IMAGES ON THE RULER

The Ionic column is the tallest and most slender of the three classical Greek columns. The capital of the Ionic column is distinguished by pairs of graceful, scrolled ornaments called volutes (voluta) that are enhanced with an “egg and dart” relief, a molding comprised of egg-shaped figures alternating with dart-shaped forms. The abacus, or top platform of the Ionic column, is more delicate than that of the Doric column. The Ionic column is characterized by graceful, carved flutes running the length of its shaft.

This coin from ancient Athens features the owl of Athena, the Greek goddess of wisdom and patron deity of Athens. The 5th century B.C. silver coin also bears the image of an olive branch, from the tree sacred to Athena, and the Greek inscription "ΑΘΕ". The owl, Athena’s companion and part of her iconography, traditionally represents wisdom, knowledge, and learning.
RESOURCES

Ayers, Donald M., *English Words from Latin and Greek Elements*, University of Arizona Press, Tucson


Unabridged English dictionary that includes etymologies

Latin dictionary

INTERNET RESOURCES

The following websites will be helpful to students interested in learning more about Latin mottoes and phrases, rhetoric, and etymology:

http://latin-phrases.co.uk/mottos/
--many links to UK, Canadian, US state, city, university mottoes in Latin; numerous Latin mottoes listed in each section

--10 mottoes well defined and described

www.merriam-webster.com/word-of-the-day
--M-W will send you a word a day, complete with meaning, pronunciation, etymology, and interesting notes about the day’s selected word; see Anno Domini [above] for example of the notation on Annus Mirabilis

https://mcl.as.uky.edu/glossary-rhetorical-terms
--short treatment of many useful terms; multiple examples, many of which are in Latin

http://www.dailywritingtips.com/50-rhetorical-devices-for-rational-writing/
--concise descriptions of 50 rhetorical terms

teachers.greenville.k12.sc.us/.../oxford_dictionary_of_literary_terms.pdf
--lengthy (208 pp.) but informative download covering all aspects of literary terms, rhetorical devices; more useful for prose, poetry, and writing but still a good reference

http://latin-phrases.co.uk/dictionary/
--Extensive list of Latin phrases listed alphabetically

http://www.etymonline.com/
--an on-line etymological English dictionary
http://lema.rae.es/
--Real Academia Española, not only a top on-line Spanish dictionary, including etymology of Spanish words, but also orthography, grammar, and other important areas of Spanish linguistic study

http://literarydevices.net/
--clear definitions and good examples of many literary devices

www.perseus.tufts.edu
--help for students to expand vocabulary use, to read and research primary sources for understanding where and how Latin words and phrases are used

LATIN LEGAL TERMS - Websites

http://latin-phrases.co.uk/terms/legal/
--Latin legal phrases with extensive list of legal terms used both in ancient Rome and in the modern legal system; English translation provided with each term, some with accompanying explanations.

https://www.kent.ac.uk/library/subjects/lawlinks/skills-hub/docs/GlossaryofLegalLatin.pdf
STUDENT ACTIVITIES

1. **E PLURIBUS UNUM – Coin Project Using Latin Mottoes**
   a. Students look at US coins and coins from other countries and note any Latin mottoes and iconography used in the coinage
   b. Students select two Latin mottoes, either from a list of mottoes or ones that they create, and incorporate the mottoes into the design of a Roman coin, featuring the two mottoes on the obverse and reverse of their coin
   c. Students add iconography that pertains to the motto or relates to aspects of Roman culture or history
   d. Students add a date to their coin, using the A.U.C. abbreviation
   e. Students create an artistic rendering of their minted coin in paper, clay, or any other medium
   f. Students share their newly minted coins with classmates, explaining the vocabulary, grammar, rhetoric, and any etymology relating to the motto on their coin
   g. Students describe why they selected the particular iconography for the designs on the two sides of their coin
   h. Students create a school exhibit of their newly minted coins
   Reference: Students can research the history of ancient coinage on the Internet or in books. There are a number of good books students can use to learn about ancient coins. One of these is *Ancient Coin Collecting*, 2nd Edition, by Wayne G. Sales, Krause Publications, 2003, ISBN: 0-87349-514-2

2. **US State Mottoes in Latin**
   a. Students search for Latin state mottoes
   b. Students create a list of US state mottoes and their meanings, including any historical references
   c. Students analyze the vocabulary and grammar of the state mottoes they discover
   d. Students note any rhetoric in the state mottoes
   e. Students research derivatives from the Latin words in the US state mottoes
   f. Students present their findings to the class
   g. Students create drawings or collages illustrating various state Latin mottoes and display their work in the classroom or in a small exhibit in their school

3. **Latin Mottoes of Other Countries**
   a. Students research the Latin mottoes of other countries
   b. Students create a list of international mottoes, including the name and location of the country and the meaning of each Latin motto
   c. Students select three mottoes on their list and research the history of each nation to discover the significance of its chosen Latin motto
   d. Students analyze the vocabulary and grammar of the Latin mottoes of other countries
   e. Students note any rhetoric in the Latin mottoes
   f. Students research derivatives from the Latin words in the mottoes of other countries, including derivatives in other languages as well as in English
   g. Students present their findings to the class
   h. Students compare the Latin mottoes of other countries to one another and to the Latin motto of the United States
4. University and School Mottoes in Latin
   a. Students research various school and college mottoes in the United States and in other countries of the world
   b. Students create a list of school Latin mottoes
   c. Students analyze the vocabulary and grammar of the mottoes they have discovered
   d. Students note any rhetoric and historical references in the Latin mottoes
   e. Students analyze the meaning of the school mottoes, considering why each phrase is an appropriate motto for education or for that institution of learning

5. Researching Latin Legal Phrases
   a. Students use dictionaries, Internet sites, and other resources to discover Latin phrases used in the legal profession and in courts
   b. Each student creates a list of 10 (or more) Latin legal phrases
   c. Students note the Latin grammar, vocabulary forms used, and the exact translation of each phrase
   d. Students select 5 legal phrases and teach those phrases to the class, explaining the meaning and use of the phrase in the courts and/or in legal transactions and pointing out grammatical forms used in each phrase

6. Creating a Latin Motto
   a. Each student creates an original Latin motto
   b. Each student explains the grammar, vocabulary forms, and meaning of the motto to the class
   c. Each student describes any rhetorical devices used in creating the motto
   d. Each student researches the etymology relating to the Latin words in the motto, including derivatives in other languages as well as English
   e. Each student creates an illustration, collage or piece of art featuring the Latin motto and its meaning
   f. The class creates a display for the classroom that includes every student’s work
   g. Students work together to create a school exhibit featuring their illustrated Latin mottoes

7. Latin Phrase-a-Day
   a. Present one Latin motto or phrase to the class each day of the year
   b. Discuss literal meanings and the use of the phrase in English
   c. Discuss the grammar, vocabulary, any rhetoric, historical references or literary allusions in the phrase
   d. Students keep a running list of daily Latin phrases and meanings
   e. Students share any Latin phrases as they discover them outside of Latin class (in other classes, in literature, in advertisements, on buildings or monuments) with classmates