

A Letter to Petrarch

Creative Writing Assignment



After you complete your readings, write Petrarch a letter responding to what you have read. Yes, I am aware that Petrarch has been dead for six hundred years, but Cicero had been dead for more than twice that long during Petrarch's time and that did not keep him from corresponding with the great Roman orator!

Your letter should contain at least *three* specific references to the texts in the primary source collection and at least one of the references needs to be to Petrarch's *Secretum*. When you make references to the documents (NOTE: To *refer* to a document does not necessarily mean to *quote* it.), reference them with parenthetical citations. For numbered documents, use the following format:

I nearly cried when I thought of you lying on the ground, wounded and weaponless, suffering from love's terrible blows (Doc 1.10).

When citing *Secretum*, just note the title in parentheses, like so: (*Secretum*).

This is a chance for me to be able to assess how much you understand of what you read and how much it prompted you to think... and maybe even have a little fun in the process. Engage Petrarch as a human being, just like Petrarch engaged Cicero and all kinds of other dead people as human beings!

Feeling Super Creative? Consider writing a dialogue between yourself and Petrarch, instead. Dialogues were used often by classical writers, such as Plato. Petrarch imitated this style in his *Secretum*.

Suggested Length: 1-2 Pages

Double-Spaced / Standard Font Size (11-12 pt.)