Military Expansion of Rome

Descriptions of Responsibilities of Roles:

**ACTOR:**

Actor learns about the Roman historical figure by reading Student Handout 1.4A. Helps brainstorm ideas for supportive questions and answers. Uses suggestions from the group to write answers to supportive questions and records ways to present them dramatically to the class. Reads the biographical briefings of two other panelists and contributes ideas for probing questions that expose the weaknesses of their arguments. This member creates the nameplate for the ACTOR. If there are only three group members, this person must write and present the 30-second introduction. ACTOR plays the role of the Roman historical figure in the panel discussion.

**SUPPORTIVE AUDIENCE MEMBER:**

Member learns about the Roman historical figure by reading Student Handout 1.4A. Helps brainstorm ideas for supportive questions and answers. Records supportive questions. Reads the biographical briefings of two other panelists and contributes ideas for probing questions that expose the weaknesses of their arguments. Member asks the supportive questions during the panel discussion.

**CRITICAL AUDIENCE MEMBER:**

Member learns about the Roman historical figure by reading Student Handout 1.4A. Helps brainstorm ideas for supportive questions and answers. Reads the biographical briefings of two other panelists and contributes ideas for probing questions that expose the weaknesses of their arguments. Records the probing questions. Member asks the panelists probing questions during the panel discussion.

**PUBLIC RELATIONS AGENT (if your group has one):**

Member learns about the Roman historical figure by reading Student Handout 1.4A. Helps brainstorm ideas for supportive questions and answers. Reads the biographical briefings of two other panelists and contributes ideas for probing questions that expose the weaknesses of their arguments. Writes the 30-second introduction, and presents it at the beginning of the panel discussion. Member assists the Actor in answering difficult questions during the panel discussion.
Summaries of Roman Historical Figures

Marcus Cicero (pronounced MAR-kuss SISS-ah-rah)—Politician. Strong supporter and defender of the Roman Republic. Used public-speaking skills to speak out against those who would replace the Republic with another kind of government. Opposed three leaders (triunvirate) who came to power in Rome around 60 B.C.E., and became a bitter enemy of Mark Antony after Julius Caesar’s assassination. Believed that expansion hurt Rome because it weakened the stability of the government.

Fulvia (pronounced FULL-vee-ah)—Wife of Mark Antony. Acquired political power after Caesar’s death. Led a rebellion of Italian cities against Octavian’s rule in an effort to extend Mark Antony’s power in Italy. Believed expansion helped Rome because it improved the standard of living of all Roman citizens, rich and poor.

Gaius Gracchus (pronounced GY-us GRAH-kuss)—Politician. A political reformer like his older brother, Tiberius. Supported programs to help the poor, including redistributing state lands for the lower classes, and creating corn allowances (subsidies) so the poor in the cities would not starve. Believed that expansion hurt Rome because it increased the number of poor people living in Rome.

Hortensia (pronounced hor-TEN-see-ah)—Orator and leader of women’s rights. Led protest against government efforts to tax 1,400 wealthiest women during Roman civil war in 42 B.C.E. Spoke out publicly against government actions, and succeeded in getting political leaders to change their minds. Believed that expansion helped Rome because it increased Rome’s wealth and that helped increase women’s rights.

Julius Caesar (pronounced JOO-lee-uss SEE-zur)—Military leader and politician. Shared power with two other leaders in triumvirate in 60 B.C.E. Passed laws to help the poor, and became unpopular with the Senate. Became the most powerful figure in the Republic, until assassinated by enemies in the Senate in 44 B.C.E. Believed that expansion helped Rome because it made Italy safer from military attacks.

Sallust (pronounced SAH-lust)—Politician and historian. Served as governor of province of Africa, but was forced to leave position because of scandal. Became writer and noted historian. Writing style influenced succession of Roman historians. Believed that expansion helped Rome because it created new economic opportunities for many Romans.

Spartacus (pronounced SPAR-tah-rah)—Slave. Led a revolt of 70,000 slaves in Italy. Believed that slaves were badly mistreated. Defeated nine separate Roman armies during a two-year revolt. Believed that expansion hurt Rome because it brought an increase in slavery.

Tiberius Gracchus (pronounced ty-BIR-ee-uss GRAH-kuss)—Politician. A political reformer who tried to help small farmers. Wanted to divide huge estates and distribute them among the poor. Believed that expansion hurt Rome because it drove small farmers off the land and placed food production in the hands of foreigners and the wealthy class.