

## The Roman Republic Graphic Organizer

### Document A: Polybius

1. *Sourcing*: Who is Polybius? When did he write this? What do you know about why he wrote this document?

2. *Close Reading*: According to Polybius, what are the “three elements” of the Roman constitution? What powers does each of them have?

1.

2.

3.

3. According to Polybius, how democratic was the Roman Republic?

4. Do you think Polybius is a credible source about how democratic the Roman Republic was? Explain your reasoning.

## Document B: Fergus Millar

1. *Sourcing*: Who is Millar? When was this document written?

2. *Close Reading*: What are Millar's arguments against those who claim that the Roman Republic was a "top down" system?

3. *Close Reading*: According to Millar, what powers did the Roman people have? How did that make Rome more democratic?

4. *Corroboration*: How does Millar's description of the Roman government compare to Polybius' description in Document A?

## Document C: Alan Ward

1. *Sourcing*: Who is Ward? When was this document written?

2. *Close Reading*: According to Ward, what barriers might have kept Romans from voting?

3. *Close Reading*: According to Ward, why didn't voters in the assemblies have as much power as the magistrates or Senate?

4. *Corroboration*: How does Ward's description of the Roman government compare to Polybius' description in Document A and Millar's description in Document B?

### Rise of the Roman Republic Timeline

509 BCE: Tarquin the Proud, the last king of Rome, was overthrown by a group of patricians upset over his abuse of power. The Roman Republic was proclaimed.

494 BCE: Plebeians rebelled against the patricians over their burden of debt and lack of political rights, beginning a time of social conflict.

287 BCE: A law passed by the Tribal Assembly made all new laws passed by the Plebeian Council binding for the Senate and all patricians.

272 BCE: Romans conquered the Greek colonies in southern Italy.

189 BCE: Romans defeated the Greek king Antiochus III and conquered all Greek lands in Asia.

167 BCE: Romans defeated the Greek king Perseus and conquered northern Greece. Greek historian Polybius was captured and taken back to Rome. Polybius entered into the service of the Romans after befriending several high-ranking Roman officials and began writing his *Histories*, describing how Rome became the dominant world power.

149 BCE: Romans conquered all of Greece and destroyed the ancient city of Corinth.

146 BCE: Rome defeated and destroyed the city-state of Carthage; its major rival in the Mediterranean region.

119 BCE: Greek historian Polybius completed his *Histories*, detailing how Rome came to dominate the world.

30 BCE: Octavian defeated Mark Anthony and Cleopatra, conquering the last Greek kingdom in the world in Egypt. Octavian was appointed Augustus, the first emperor of Rome, signaling the end of the Roman Republic.

### Roman Government Handout

The chart below breaks down the three branches of the Roman Republic's government. It is based on information provided by Professor Paul Halsall of Fordham University.

	<b>Elected Magistrates and Consuls</b>	<b>Senate</b>	<b>Assemblies</b>
<i>What was it?</i>	Small group of elected men known as magistrates	300 former magistrates selected by the most powerful magistrates	Large groups of different Romans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Century Assembly: All male patricians and plebeians</li> <li>○ Tribal Assembly: All male plebeians and patricians</li> <li>○ The Plebeian Council: All male plebeians</li> </ul>
<i>What was its purpose?</i>	Directed the military and government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advised magistrates and assemblies</li> <li>• Passed laws</li> <li>• Controlled finances</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elected magistrates</li> <li>• Voted on laws passed by the Senate</li> <li>• Vetted actions of magistrate</li> </ul>
<i>Who could be part of it?</i>	Male patricians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patricians</li> <li>• Occasionally very wealthy plebeians known as "New Men"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any adult male Roman citizen [This did not include slaves or men born outside Italia.]</li> </ul>