Learning Group Assignment 5
Postings are due in your Learning Group Discussion Boards by midnight on Tuesday, December 2.

In class on Wednesday, Dec 3, we will be closely analyzing Ovid’s myth of the sculptor Pygmalion, told in Book 10 of Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*, one of the best known and most influential myths from Ovid’s work. In order to prepare for the in-class discussion, post your responses to the following 6 questions.

*Please answer ALL 6 questions and write at least 3 sentences per response.*

1. Who sings the story of Pygmalion? Describe ONE central similarity OR ONE central difference between the character who sings the story of Pygmalion and the character Pygmalion himself.

2. *In your own words*, describe why Pygmalion has chosen a life of celibacy, as Ovid tells us at the beginning of his tale.

3. *In your own words*, describe what Ovid means by the phrase “to such a degree does his art conceal art” in line 275.

4. Study the simile comparing the animation of the statue to wax softening under the sun in lines 313-318. Using this simile, compare this story to what Ovid says at the very beginning of Book 1 of the *Metamorphoses*.

5. We have seen Venus’ (Aphrodite’s) power in several myths in this course (think of her victims Phaedra in Euripides’ *Hippolytus* and Medea in *Jason and the Golden Fleece*). Keeping those paradigms in mind, how would you describe Venus’ role in the story of Pygmalion? That is, how does it compare to her role in the story of either Phaedra OR Medea?

6. Trace the familial connections starting from Pygmalion down to Adonis.