

**2026 NJCL**  
**Latin Oratory**

Ubi Menēnius Agrippa ad castra pervēnit, adventus eius plēbī grātus erat quae eum bene accēpit. Populō (ita fāma erat) hanc fābulam nārrāvit lēgātus. “Corpus hūmānum multa membra habet, inter quae sunt manūs, os, dentēs, venter. Ōlim reliquae partēs corporis īrātae erant, quod venter omnia accēpit sed nihil sibi ēgit. Tum inter sē hoc cōnsilium cēpērunt. Dentēs nūllum cibum mandere, os nūllum cibum accipere, manūs nūllum cibum ad os ferre statuērunt. Itaque venter alī nōn poterat, et tōtum corpus ē vītā discessit. Nōlīte, ō cīvēs, propter discordiam vestram patriam eōdem modō dēlēre.”

From “The First Sit-Down Strike,” Our Latin Heritage I, 229-30

*When Menenius Agrippa reached the camp, his arrival was pleasing to the plebs, who received him well. To the people (and so was the rumor) a legate told this story. “The human body has many parts, among which are the hand, mouth, teeth, stomach. Once the rest of the parts of the body were angry, because the stomach took everything but did nothing for them. Then among them they took up a plan. The teeth decided to chew no food, the mouth to receive no food, the hand to carry no food to the mouth. And so the stomach could not be nourished, and the whole body departed from life. Don’t, oh citizens, destroy your country in the same way on account of disagreement.”*

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