

Ancient Artifacts: Trash or Treasure? **Worksheet**

It is the year 1495. A wealthy landowner has unearthed an ancient marble statue of a Roman goddess while excavating a new fountain. A progressive man, he is too immersed in modern developments to care about the past and does not understand the fuss being made over old bits of sculpture. He is negotiating to sell the statue to a builder who intends to grind it down for lime, which is desperately needed for a magnificent new municipal building designed in accordance with the latest architectural principles.

Suddenly, the collector Isabella d'Este and the artist Andrea Mantegna arrive, both equally eager to acquire this antique specimen. Unsure of what to do, the landowner gives each of the three applicants the opportunity to plead his or her case. What do they say?

- Research the interests of the builder, the collector, or the artist (according to your assignment) and formulate their most convincing arguments.
- Consider the use each would make of the statue and how that might appeal to the progressive interests of the statue's owner.
- Use works of art and architecture to illustrate and support your points.