

Democracy in Ancient Greece

Name: _____

Handout 2.3d Spiro "Against the War"

Of course, I am the first one here at the **Assembly** meeting again. "I'm all ready for the **Assembly**, arranged for its usual meeting at dawn. But the **Pnyx** is empty- everybody's gossiping down in the **marketplace**." I don't know why people would rather hang out in the **marketplace** than come to the **Assembly** and be part of our great **democracy**.

I am eager to begin today's debate. I don't usually come to debates in the **Assembly**, because I live far from **Athens** and have a farm to run. I traveled all the way from the countryside so that I could argue against **Pericles'** plan to start a war with **Sparta**.

After the **Persian Wars**, the **Assembly** built a thick wall around the center of **Athens** to protect us from future attacks. As part of **Pericles'** plans for war with **Sparta**, he wants all the farmers to move inside the walls of **Athens**.

Pericles' plan is cowardly. He wants all of **Athens** to hide inside the city while the Spartans destroy our fields. He is willing to let our farms and animals be destroyed, while we watch from the hilltops inside the city walls. This plan is unfair to the farmers. We are **citizens** too. I hope that all my neighbors from the countryside will complain at today's **Assembly** meeting. We must not go to war if this is the plan.

Questions:

1. Who is Spiro and what does he think about going to war against Sparta?
2. Do you agree with Spiro? Why or why not?



Spiro
The Farmer