

c) This passage is the speech's second example of prosopopoeia; in the first of these Cicero addressed Catiline playing the role of the motherland herself, but this time the republic is addressing Cicero personally. Cicero had several reasons for utilising these prosopopoeia; firstly, by speaking through the republic, Cicero was seeking to give the impression to the Senate that they, the city, and indeed the whole of Italy and the republic were behind him in opposing Catiline. With this seeming censure of his own supposedly "lenient" actions, Cicero is distracting the Senators into completely ignoring the question of whether Cicero was correct in condemning and prosecuting Catiline, and focusing instead on how this prosecution may most effectively and justly be executed. By having the state address him so directly and severely, Cicero is also reconfirming the impression his own importance to the safety of the republic, and importance and power in general; as a *novus homo*, Cicero needed to reconfirm his importance and power as often as possible. Finally, through addressing himself in the guise of the state, Cicero is also selectively directing the Senators as to which questions should be asked of his conduct, namely the questions to which he has easy answers, and therefore once again reaffirming his own correctness of procedure.

The opening tricolon "*quem ... sentis*" and the succeeding appositional descriptions of Catiline emphasise again his evil character and deeds, as well as the Republic's supposed surprise and outrage of Cicero's "lenient" treatment of Catiline, portrayed here as the worst of civic enemies, and of greatest danger to Rome. The predominance of rhetorical questions also go to emphasise the State's shock and apparent censure of the consul.

Cicero also brings up several questions, which he feels the state and concerned men should be asking him, and directly answers them. "*Quid tandem te impedit?*", the state asks, continuing by stating things which might impede Cicero from being harsher on Catiline, and then giving reasons why they are not real causes for impediment. With "*mosne maiorum*" and its answer, Cicero, through the state, is showing his own respect and reverence for Rome's previous leading men, the ancestors of the current Senators. He uses rhetorical exaggeration in "*persaepe*", glossing over the fact that he himself can name only one precedent of a citizen being put to death by another private citizen, that of G. Ahala, mentioned earlier in the speech. In answering "*An leges*", Cicero is even more vague, seeing that as part of the Senate, he has no legal jurisdiction over laws so recently passed by the People; however, to distract from this complete lack of legal backing, he appeals rather to the emotions and patriotism of the Senators, citing the name of "*civium Romanorum*", "*hac urbe*", not even giving one precedent.

The anaphora of "at" in answering his own (or the state's own) questions gives the impression of Cicero's control over the situation.