

The following primary source was found in *The Plague in Siena: An Italian Chronicle*, written by Agnolo Di Tura in 1348.

“They died by the hundreds, both day and night, and all were thrown in ditches and covered with earth. And as soon as those ditches were filled, more were dug. And I, Agnolo di Tura, buried my five children with my own hands. And there were also those who were so sparsely covered with earth that the dogs dragged them forth and devoured many bodies throughout the city. There was no one who wept for any death, for all awaited death. And so many died that all believed that it was the end of the world.”

BLACK DEATH: REAL WORLD CHALLENGE

Pretend that you are a doctor working in the small town of Malato, Italy, in the 14th Century. You have heard about the Black Plague from stories and images you have seen and heard coming from other neighboring villages.

Some people in your community are starting to develop symptoms consistent with the Plague. Your family has lived in this town for generations. You are the only doctor in Malato. Town leaders are relying on you to respond to this epidemic. Your immediate family is relying on you to ensure their survival.

Write a one-page open letter to the people of Malato explaining to the townspeople what you are going to do. Use at least FIVE specific pieces of evidence from any of the sources presented in class to support your decision.

Your letter may be either plain or decorative, and your language may be plain or passionate, but it must make a statement about **what you have chosen to do** and **use supporting historical evidence to back up your decision**.

Texts that we have learned from this week:

Source	Possible sentence starters (of course feel free to use your imagination and come up with your own, too!)
Boccaccio primary source	"I have read from Boccaccio's <i>Decameron</i> , and he said . . ."
Any of the videos we have seen	"I have heard from reliable sources that . . ." "Because I am a doctor, I know that . . ."
Black Death packet	"I have heard from other reliable sources that . . ." "Based on my knowledge of science, I know that . . ."
Any of the images or paintings	"I have seen paintings that show . . ." "The pictures that people are drawing indicate . . ."
<i>Plague in Siena</i> primary source	"My friend in Siena, Agnolo di Tura, has written to me saying . . ."