Quaestînēs prælectînī: “Juvenal Explains His Impulse to Satire”
For Wheelock Chapter 16

Questions that can be given to students in advance to think about as they read and translate the passage for homework, as a basis for discussing the passage in class:

- what seems to be the point of the first sentence?—think of the popularity of poetry recitations in Rome. How has Juvenal been spending (wasting?) his time, and how does he want to change that?
- what reasons does J. give for his decisions to become a) a poet and b) specifically a satirist?
- J. wrote difficile est saturam nōn scrībere: how would the meaning differ if he had moved the nōn and written nōn difficile est saturam scrībere? Which point is more effective, and why?
- WHY did J. feel it was difficile . . . saturam NON scrībere?
- What is meant here by nātūra? (think of the derivative, “innate”)
- Watch out for indignātiō: what case is it, and so how does in function in its clause? What does indignātiō really mean, and in what sense does it versum facit?
- In the sentence In librō . . . īnsidia, J. lies to us in the first half, as can be seen from his list in the second: explain.

What questions might you compose for the Martial epigram on this same page?