

class or cavalry. Now he returns to the topic of religion in general. How does this sequence of topics shape our perception of the importance of religion to the Gauls?

2. Human sacrifice was a highly emotional topic in the ancient world. It was an accusation leveled by one group against another as a way of demonstrating to one's own group that the other group was less civilized or even criminal. Roman officials also had a history of charging their enemies, both foreign and domestic, with human sacrifice. For example, the Romans charged the Carthaginians with human sacrifice during the Punic Wars. They leveled similar charges against worshippers of Bacchus in 186 BCE, and would do so again later against Christians. What would the rhetorical advantage have been for Caesar to describe this practice among the Gauls in the midst of his narrative of their revolt against him and Roman rule?
3. Caesar narrates Gallic practices concerning human sacrifices in a very matter-of-fact style. How does Caesar's tone contribute to the overall persuasiveness of his argument?