***Reasons Patricians Believed they should keep their Power***

**The Founding Members of Rome -** The term "patrician" originally described the group of [elite](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elitism) families in [ancient Rome](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Rome) who were the aristocrats (Rich) of Rome, that took over when the kings were expelled (Kicked out) and the Republic formed in [509 BC](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/509_BC). Their ancestors and family members were the ones who kicked out the last king of Rome. For this reason they believed they deserved to rule and control the country and keep the power they have.

**Believed they were more Religious People-** There was a belief that patricians communicated better with the Roman gods, so they alone could perform the sacred rites and control the city. They could do this because the “gods” choose them and the family to be in power.

**The Patricians have the Experience of Running Rome** - The Patrician class was made up of the powerful founding families of Rome. For centuries Patricians governed Rome exclusively (By themselves). The Patrician class ruled Rome already for 100 years and succeeded. They questioned why the government should change now if it is working. To be a Patrician is to view the Senate as your birthright. Meaning Patricians were expected to be Senator and run the government. The Patrician bloodline can be traced to the Senate, and your families past is lined with Roman honors, culture, and tradition. Patrician ancestors have held high office and commanded great armies. Another major complaint about the Plebeians was that they were not educated and would not be effective in running the country.

   **The Power of the Patricians**.—The patricians and plebeians had united in their efforts to drive out the kings; but when the struggle against the kingship was ended, the chief fruits of the victory fell to the patricians. The plebeians could, it is true, still vote; but they could not hold any of the new offices, nor could they sit in the senate. Rome became a republic, but it was an aristocratic (upper class), and not a democratic republic; that is, the chief power rested not in the whole people, but in a particular class. The plebeians might perhaps have followed the government of the patricians, if it had not been exercised in a selfish and harsh manner. But the patrician rule proved to be as cruel as that of the kings; and a long and fierce struggle ensued between the two orders. As the patricians were generally wealthier than the plebeians, the conflict became at first a struggle between the rich and the poor, a contest for a more equal distribution of wealth.

**The Patricians Wanted…**

* Keep the power they have and not give any to the Plebeians
* Control the government
* Continue to remain wealthy

**Things to think about for discussion**

* Why did the Patricians have the power they had and how did they defend that right?
* What control did the Patricians have over the Plebeians?
* Why should the Patricians keep the power they have?
* Why don’t the Plebeians deserve to have more power and rights?
* Why don’t the Plebeians deserve to have representation in the government?
* Think about arguments why the Plebeians should not rule or have more power

**Things to Remember…**

* Patrician ancestors were the one who kicked out the only king
* Patricians have ruled the Republic forever and have experience the plebeians have no experience
* Plebeians were uneducated