## Paraphraser.io, Standard:

Gladiator games provided their sponsors with extremely expensive but effective opportunities to promote themselves, while also providing their sponsors and potential voters with games. interesting entertainment for which they pay little or no charge. Gladiators have become big business for trainers and owners, for emerging politicians and those who have risen to the top and want to stay there. A politically ambitious privatus could delay the funeral of his deceased father until election season, when a generous display can garner many votes; Those in power and those who seek it need the backing of their supporters and courts, who can win votes with just the promise of a particularly good show. Sulla, during his tenure as praetor, displayed his usual acumen in breaking his own lavish laws to organize the most lavish funeral ever seen in Rome, for his wife's funeral. , Metella.

During the last years of the Post-Republic of political and social unrest, any aristocratic gladiator owner had a political footing. In 65 BC. A.D., the newly elected curule aedile Julius Caesar held games he justified as munus for his father, who had died 20 years earlier. Despite his already enormous personal debt, he used 320 pairs of gladiators wearing silver armor. He had more in Capua, but the senate, aware of Spartacus' recent uprising and fearful of Caesar's growing and increasingly popular private army, imposed a limit of 320 pairs because the maximum number of gladiators a citizen could keep in Rome. Caesar's staging was unprecedented in scale and cost; he held a munus as a memorial rather than a funeral rite, eroding any practical or meaningful distinction between munus and ludi.

Gladiator games, often associated with beast shows, spread throughout the republic and beyond. Anti-corruption laws of 65 and 63 BC tried but failed to limit the political usefulness of the games to their sponsors. After Caesar's assassination and the Roman Civil War, Augustus took the reins of the games, including the munera, and formalized their provision as a civic and religious obligation. His amendments to the Law of Sumptuary limited private and public spending on munera, claimed to save the Roman elite from the bankruptcy they would incur, and restricted gladiator munera during ceremonies. Saturnalia and Quinquatria Society. 120 gladiators with a capped cost of 25,000 denarii; a royal ludi can cost no less than 180,000 denarii. Across the empire, the best and most popular games will now be identified with the state-sponsored imperial cult that promotes recognition, respect, and approval of divine numbers of the emperor, his law and its representatives. Between AD 108 and 109, Trajan celebrated the Dacian victory using 10,000 gladiators and 11,000 animals for 123 days. The prices of gladiators and muneras continued to spiral out of control. The law of 177 AD by Marcus Aurelius failed to stop him and was completely ignored by his son, Commodus.