## Paraphraser.io, Creative:

Gladiator contests provided their sponsors with a very expensive but effective opportunity for self-promotion, exciting entertainment at little or no cost to their customers and potential voters. Gladiators became big business for trainers and owners, starting with politicians and those who made it to the top and wanted to stay there. A privatus (ordinary citizen) with political ambitions might delay his late father's munus until election season, when a show of generosity might win votes; support, whose votes can be won by simply promising a very good performance. During his consulship, Sulla showed his usual shrewdness, breaking his own extravagant laws by offering the most lavish munus Rome had ever seen for the funeral of his wife Metra.

In the politically and socially unstable last years of the Late Republic, any noble with gladiators had political power at their disposal. In 65 BC. AD, the newly elected curule aedile Julius Caesar organizes games that he justifies as munus for his father, who died 20 years ago. He had more gladiators available in Capua, but the Senate, aware of Spartacus' recent rebellion and concerned about Caesar's burgeoning private army and growing popularity, limited 320 pairs to any citizen Maximum number of gladiators you can can have in Rome. Carry on. Caesar's exhibition was unprecedented in scope and cost. He held Munus as a memorial rather than a funeral ceremony, eroding any real or meaningful distinction between Munus and Ludi.

Gladiator games, often associated with animal shows, spread throughout the republic and beyond. The anti-corruption laws of 65 and 63 BC. tried in vain to limit the political usefulness of the Games to its sponsors. Following Caesar's assassination and the Roman Civil War, Augustus gained imperial power over the games (including the munera) and formalized their regulations as civil and religious obligations. His amendments to the Law of Extravagance limited private and public spending on munera, allegedly to save the Roman elite from the bankruptcy they would otherwise suffer, and limited gladiator munera to the festivals of Saturnalia and Quinquatria . Henceforth, the official munus of the regents of the Empire was authorized to have 120 gladiators at a maximum cost of 25,000 dinars; an imperial rudi cost at least 180,000 dinars. Throughout the empire, the most important and famous games are now considered imperial state-sponsored cults that fostered public recognition, reverence and acknowledgment of the emperor's divine soul, its laws and its substitutes. Trajan celebrated his victory in Dacia with 10,000 gladiators and 11,000 animals for 123 days between 108 and 109 AD. The costs continue to spiral out of control for the Gladiators and Munera. Marcus Aurelius' legislation in AD 177 did little to stop it, and his son Commodus completely ignored it.