## Quillbot, Shorten:

Gladiatorial games afforded sponsors lavish but effective self-promotion and provided clients and prospective voters with thrilling entertainment at little or no expense.

Gladiators were major business for trainers, owners, politicians, and those at the top who wanted to stay there.

A politically ambitious privatus (private citizen) would postpone his deceased father's munus until election season, when a lavish display could garner votes from the plebeians and their tribunes.

Sulla broke his own sumptuary norms to grant Rome's most magnificent munus for Metella's funeral.

In the politically and socially turbulent Late Republic, aristocratic gladiator owners possessed political power.

Julius Caesar, the freshly elected curule aedile, staged munus games in 65 BC to honour his father, who had died 20 years before.

He utilised 320 silvered gladiator pairs despite his massive debt.

He had more in Capua, but the senate, aware of the Spartacus insurrection and terrified of Caesar's growing private army and expanding popularity, limited citizens to 320 pairs of gladiators in Rome.

Caesar's theatrics was unmatched in scope and budget, staging a munus as commemoration rather than burial ritual, erasing any practical or meaningful distinction between munus and ludi.

Gladiatorial games and beast exhibits proliferated over the republic.

65 and 63 BC anti-corruption rules failed to limit the games' political value to sponsors.

Augustus made sports, especially munera, a civic and religious obligation after Caesar's assassination during the Roman Civil War.

His sumptuary rule capped private and public munera spending and limited gladiator munera to Saturnalia and Quinquatria to protect the Roman aristocracy from bankruptcy.

An imperial praetor's formal munus may include 120 gladiators and cost 25,000 denarii, while an imperial ludi could cost 180,000 denarii.

The empire's most renowned games were now associated with the state-sponsored imperial worship, which increased popular awareness, respect, and support for the emperor's divine numen, laws, and agents.

Trajan celebrated his Dacian victory for 123 days with 10,000 gladiators and 11,000 beasts.

Gladiators and munera prices skyrocketed.

Commodus rejected Marcus Aurelius' 177 AD legislation, which did nothing to halt it.