

Greek Epigraphy – Structure of Decrees

1. Invocation

ΘΕΟΙ, ΑΓΑΘΗ ΤΥΧΗ

2. Dating formula

Name and title of annual eponymous magistrate (ἐπί + genitive). Other possible specifications: tribe in prytany, month, name of recording secretary.

3. Name of formal mover

Name of individual moving the motion + εἶπε(ν). Verb of speaking controls the grammar of the decree (usually infinitives).

4. Preamble

Motivation clause, usually introduced by ἐπειδὴ (“Since/Whereas...”), + purpose clause, introduced by ὅπως ἄν or similar (“in order that/so that...”).

5. Enactment formula

ἔδοξεν τῇ βουλῇ καὶ τῷ δήμῳ (“Decreed by the council and the assembly”).

6. Citation formula

δεδοχθαι/ἐψηφισθαι (“Be it resolved that...”)+ infinitive construction.

7. Instructions for publication

Directions for inscription of decree and placement of the stele; designation of body/individual responsible for paying the cost.