

The Tragedy of Julius Caesar Persuasive Essay Assignment

Read the provided two monologues which Cassius delivers in Act 1. scene ii of *Julius Caesar* carefully. Then, in a well-organized essay, discuss the effectiveness of the rhetorical techniques and appeals employed, and evaluate **which** (one) of the monologues is more effective as a persuasive speech. You are determining which speech is more persuasive and what rhetorical strategies (persuasive techniques) did Cassius use to convince Brutus to join the conspiracy.

Essay Due Dates

1. Thesis Statement & Annotated Text
2. Rough Draft
3. Final Draft

Wednesday, March 26th

Tuesday, April 1st

Friday, April 4th (Friday before Spring Break)

Reminders

- Your thesis statement is the **MOST IMPORTANT** sentence you will write. Your thesis will guide you in writing the rest of your essay.
- You **MUST** have a **MINIMUM** of three (3) embedded quotes (three of your details **MUST BE** embedded quotes). The rest of your details can be paraphrased (put into your own words).
- You must have internal documentation, but this time it will be slightly different. You will only use the line number(s). For example: (45-50).
- Your final draft **MUST** be in MLA format or it will not be graded. **MUST BE TYPED.**
*** A sample paper in MLA format will be emailed and posted on my website.
- You **DO NOT** have to include a works cited page this time since the prompt gave you the excerpt.
- **USE THE SAMPLE PAPER TO GUIDE YOU!!!** If you don't, your paper most likely will not be in MLA format!

What am I looking for?

1. Is your thesis statement correct--does it completely and accurately answer the prompt?
2. Are your claims (IDEAS) supported by embedded text and supporting details?
3. Were you able to identify and use the rhetorical strategies that we have been discussing throughout the year?
4. Is your paper convincing? Have you appropriately employed rhetorical strategies to persuade me as your reader?
5. Is your analysis (commentary) in-depth? (DETAILS)
6. Have you appropriately employed transitional words and phrases guiding me through your paper in a seamless manner? (ORGANIZATION)
7. Did you submit all three parts? (see above)
8. Is your final draft in MLA format?
9. Can I tell you have read and annotated the text and have an accurate understanding of it, including themes, events and characters, etc.?
10. Have you properly incorporated your vocabulary words from this semester? There is no required number of vocabulary words; however, your words should be inserted as they are naturally applicable. Don't force it.
11. Can I hear your voice? Is your voice distinct from the rest of your peers? (STYLE)
12. Are you following all rules according to Standard American English? (CONVENTIONS)

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Thesis Statement

FIRST MONOLOGUE

- Cas. I know that virtue to be in you, Brutus,
As well as I do know your outward favor.
Well, honor is the subject of my story.
I cannot tell what you and other men
(5) Think of this life; but, for my single self,
I had as lief not be as live to be
In awe of such a thing as I myself.
I was born free as Caesar, so were you;
We both have fed as well, and we can both
(10) Endure the winter's cold as well as he.
For once, upon a raw and gusty day,
The troubled Tiber chafing with her shores,
Caesar said to me, "Dar'st thou, Cassius, now
Leap in with me into this angry flood
(15) And swim to yonder point?" Upon the word,
Accoutered as I was, I plunged in
And bade him follow; so indeed he did.
The torrent roared, and we did buffet it
With lusty sinews, throwing it aside
(20) And stemming it with hearts of controversy.
But ere we could arrive the point proposed,
Caesar cried, "Help me, Cassius, or I sink!"
Ay, as Aeneas, our great ancestor,
Did from the flames of Troy upon his shoulder
(25) The old Anchises bear, so from the waves of Tiber
Did I the tired Caesar. And this man
Is now become a god, and Cassius is
A wretched creature and must bend his body
If Caesar carelessly but nod on him.
(30) He had a fever when he was in Spain,
And when the fit was on him I did mark
How he did shake. 'Tis true, this god did shake.
His coward lips did from their color fly,
And that same eye whose bend doth awe the world
(35) Did lose his luster. I did hear him groan.
Ay, and that tongue of his that bade the Romans
Mark him and write his speeches in their books,
Alas, it cried, "Give me some drink, Titinius,"
As a sick girl. Ye gods, it doth amaze me
(40) A man of such a feeble temper should
So get the start of the majestic world.
And bear the palm alone.

SECOND MONOLOGUE

- Cas. Why, man, he doth bestride the narrow world
Like a Colossus, and we petty men
Walk under his huge legs, and peep about
To find ourselves dishonorable graves.
Men at some time are masters of their fates:
The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars,
(50) But in ourselves, that we are underlings.
Brutus and Caesar: what should be in that "Caesar"?
Why should that name be sounded more than yours?
Write them together, yours is as fair a name;
Sound them, it doth become the mouth as well;
(55) Weigh them, it is as heavy: conjure with 'em,
"Brutus" will start a spirit as soon as "Caesar."
Now in the names of all the gods at once,
Upon what meat doth this our Caesar feed
That he is grown so great? Age, thou art sham'd!
(60) Rome, thou hast lost the breed of noble bloods!
When went there by an age since the great flood
But it was fam'd with more than with one man?
When could they say, till now, that talk'd of Rome,
That her wide walks encompass'd but one man?
(65) Now is it Rome indeed and room enough,
When there is in it but one only man.
a! you and I have heard our fathers say
There was a Brutus once that would have
brook'd
(70) Th' eternal devil to keep his state in Rome
As easily as a king.