

Julius Caesar Persuasive Essay

- 1. Choose one of the following topics.**
- 2. Write a thesis statement.**
- 3. Develop an outline (web or linear) for a four or a five paragraph essay using quotes from the play to prove your point.**
- 4. Write a well-developed persuasive essay using your outline. The questions posed below are simply guides to a thesis. You'll need to create your own. Be sure to cite each quote that you use (ex: ActII, sc.1, ln 190).**

1. Is Cassius a tragic hero? What is a tragic hero? What are Cassius' positive points? His flaws? His dreams? His means of obtaining them? His fate?
2. Is Brutus a tragic hero? (see #1 guidelines)
3. Could Caesar be the tragic hero? How is he noble? What are his flaws? What is his fate? Why is the play called Julius Caesar instead of Brutus or some other title?
4. What do Calpurnia and Portia contribute to the play? Compare and contrast them in regard to their personalities, their contributions, and their relationships to others in the play.
5. Describe Shakespeare's attitude toward the common people as exemplified by his treatment of them in Act I, scenes 1&2 and in Act III, scenes 2&3.
6. Discuss instances in which the action of the play hinges on the successful use of flattery.
7. Show how Lucius serves to reveal more fully the complex character of Brutus.
8. Describe the ways in which Shakespeare uses the weather, dreams, augurers, and other portents to create dramatic tension and to develop character.
9. Demonstrate how Brutus and Cassius are foils before the assassination and how Brutus and Antony are foils afterward.

Foils: Characters that are similar enough to deserve comparison but the comparison highlights their differences.

10. Examine Shakespeare's presentation of Antony. How does he appear initially? How does he grow in importance? How and why does he change? Is he likeable? Are his actions understandable or defensible?
11. What might be a possible theme for this play (themes might revolve around the ideas of friendship, betrayal, power, persuasion, stubbornness, etc...)? Use examples and a thorough discussion to explain your choice of theme. Does this play still work today? Is it significant or meaningful in our decade? Why or why not?
12. Examine one or some of the following conflicts, explaining why they exist and how they are resolved:
- conspirators vs. Caesar and the institution of a king
 - triumvirate vs. conspirators
 - Portia and Calpurnia's efforts to prevent their husband's fates
 - Caesar's own struggle for power
 - Brutus' internal conflict.

REMEMBER – ORGANIZATION, SPELLING, GRAMMAR, TONE, AND DEVELOPMENT ARE VERY IMPORTANT!! BE SURE TO PROOFREAD, TOO!