

# ***JULIUS CAESAR ESSAY ASSIGNMENT***

Choose a topic below to write your essay on. Employ everything you know about good essay writing. Adhere to the requirements stated.

You will choose one of the topics below to write your persuasive essay on:

1. Antony/Brutus/Caesar/Cassius (pick one) would make an excellent leader for the people of Rome. Support, refute, or qualify this statement.
2. Antony/Brutus/Caesar/Cassius (pick one) is most responsible for the tragedy in the play. Support, refute, or qualify this statement.
3. Caesar deserved to be assassinated. Support, refute, or qualify this statement.
4. Brutus deserves to fail in the end. Support, refute, or qualify this statement.
5. Brutus is an honorable man. Support, refute, or qualify this statement.
6. Brutus is deserving of sympathy, in the end. Support, refute, or qualify.
7. The citizens of Rome are worthy of a republic. Support, refute, or qualify.

## **Sample Thesis Statements:**

**Support Examples. A support thesis states that the claim is true:**

- : Brutus would make the best leader of Rome.
- Caesar deserved to be assassinated.
- Brutus is an honorable man.

**Refute Examples. A refute thesis states that the claim is NOT true:**

- Caesar did not deserve to be assassinated,
- The citizens of Rome are not deserving of a republic.
- Brutus does not deserve to fail.

**Qualify Examples. A qualify thesis states that the claim is true (or false), but with some concession or exception:**

- Despite his naivete, Brutus would make an excellent leader for Rome.
- Even though he shows wisdom, Caesar would be a poor leader for Rome.
- Though Caesar is an ambitious man, Cassius is most to blame for the tragedy in the play.

## **REQUIREMENTS:**

1. 6 chunks; at least one chunk needs to be 2+1 ratio; use as many body paragraphs as you see fit.
2. You will employ the “concession/rebuttal” strategy in this essay. This means that you will either:
  - a. Concede a point to the opposition, though you will attempt to minimize its impact.
    - i. If you choose to “qualify” your argument, you are, in effect, using the concession strategy as you are saying your argument is true, but with exceptions.
  - b. Or you will anticipate an argument against your position, and you will rebut or refute it through argumentation. One or two extra chunks outside of the original 6 required should be used to do this. You can work the rebuttal into an existing paragraph, or create a separate rebuttal paragraph. Do what seems to make the most sense organizationally. If you choose a “support” or “refute” position, you will be employing this rebuttal strategy since you are not conceding a point—you are showing how a point against your position is not valid.
3. Each topic sentence needs to define an argument in favor of your position

4. All CDs must come from the play and all CD must be cited: (Act. Scene. Line) (II. ii. 56-61).
5. Intro must begin with an intro technique from the lecture (see website). Conclusion needs to summarize and then explore broader significance.
6. All CDs must be quotes
7. Outline, first draft, peer edit, and final draft required.
8. Final Draft Specifications: MLA format
9. Works Cited page is required.
10. Upload a draft to turnitin.com

### Sample Outline #1:

1. Thesis: Brutus is an honorable man. (support essay)
  - a. Argument #1 to support your position
    - i. CD
      1. CM
    - ii. CD
      1. CM
    - iii. CD
      1. CM
  - b. Argument #2 to support your position
    - i. CD (2+1 chunk here)
    - ii. CD
      1. CM
    - iii. CD
      1. CM
    - iv. CD
      1. CM
  - c. Rebuttal Paragraph: Anticipated argument against your position
    - i. CD that refutes the argument against
      1. CM

### Sample Outline #2:

1. Thesis: Despite his naivete, Brutus would make an excellent leader for Rome (qualification essay)
  - a. Argument #1 to support your position
    - i. CD
      1. CM
    - ii. CD
      1. CM
    - iii. CD
      1. CM
  - b. Argument #2 to support your position
    - i. CD (2+1 chunk here)
    - ii. CD
      1. CM
    - iii. CD
      1. CM
    - iv. CD
      1. CM
  - c. Concession Paragraph: Concede a point: Brutus is naive
    - i. CD that shows his naivete
      1. CM that diminishes or minimizes the concession.