**Kessler**

Julius Caesar Essay

***The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*** is a drama by [William Shakespeare](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Shakespeare), believed to have been written in 1599. It portrays the 44 BC [conspiracy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assassination_of_Julius_Caesar) against the [Roman dictator](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_dictator) [Julius Caesar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julius_Caesar), his assassination and the defeat of the conspirators at the [Battle of Philippi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Philippi). It is one of several plays written by Shakespeare based on true events from [Roman history](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Rome), which also include [*Coriolanus*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coriolanus) and [*Antony and Cleopatra*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antony_and_Cleopatra).

Although the title is *Julius Caesar*, [Julius Caesar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julius_Caesar) is not the most visible character in its action; he appears in only five scenes. [Marcus Brutus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marcus_Junius_Brutus_the_Younger) speaks more than four times as many lines, and the central psychological drama is his struggle between the conflicting demands of [honor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honor), patriotism, and [friendship](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Friendship).

Choose one of the following three essay options.

1.) In a well developed essay, address the rhetorical strategies in the funeral speeches of Brutus and Antony in Act III, and state your opinion on which one is the most successful and why. Suggested strategies are the following: Rhetorical Questions, Parallel Structure and Repetition.

2.) In a compelling essay, analyze the rhetorical strategies logos, ethos and pathos and how they are used in the funeral speeches of Brutus and Antony in Act III.

3.) In a fully developed essay, define how it is that Brutus can be seen as a Tragic Hero.

4.)   Discuss friendship in the play. Consider Caesar and Brutus, Caesar and Antony, Brutus and Cassius (and how their friendship changes). Is Shakespear making a point about friendships?

5.)  Discuss any of the other themes of the play (such as ambition, greed, power, betrayal, aspiration, etc.). What is Shakespeare's larger message?

**Suggestions on Writing:**

Once you have designed your thesis please do the following:

1. Write your name, teachers name, class and date in MLA format on the left-hand side of your paper.
2. Write an original title for your essay

Your essay should have the following:

1. An Introductory paragraph that begins with one of the following types of hooks :
   1. A Rhetorical Question
   2. An Anecdote
   3. A Direct Quote
2. A thesis that responds fully to the prompt and located at the end of the introductory paragraph. Your thesis should always be in one sentence. **Your thesis must be highlighted.** - Please review Thesis handout, if you have questions.
3. Always write about literature in present tense. Example: Portia is an unusual woman.
4. Transitions between paragraphs. ***While Brutus is an excellent speaker, Antony is able to do a much better job using rhetorical strategies to turn the crowd****.*
5. Three Body paragraphs that each include at least 2 direct quotes from our text that support your thesis followed by clear analysis that is twice as long as your example.
6. All paragraphs must be at least 5 complete sentences in length *[not including quotes]*
7. Do not use second person *(you, our, we, us).* Do not use contractions *(can’t, you’re etc.).*
8. A thoughtful conclusion that takes the reader beyond the text, but does not start a new essay. Usually one key line that refers back to the hook or introduction.
9. Formatting, grammar, syntax and diction do count.