



Julius Caesar

Persuasive Writing

In *Julius Caesar*, Cassius is able to persuade many people to commit a horrendous crime- murder. He was able to use his words and influence people who may or may not have been likely to consider such an act. How was he able to accomplish this? What tactics did he use? How was he able to sway characters away from their moral code?

Pick a topic such as asking your parents to extend your curfew or some other issue and write a persuasive speech to sway your audience to your point of view. Be sure to try to adapt Cassius's tactics to fit your situation, audience, and your goal to use your powers for good!

Personal

A common theme within *Julius Caesar* that we often discuss today is bullying. Cassius is a great example of a Shakespearean bully. Think about the kinds of characters you see in plays, movies, and TV who have similarities to Cassius as a bully. What are these characters' motivations? What are they trying to accomplish? Not every bully was always a bad person or character. What happened to make them the bully that they are today? What is their life story?

A great tool for any actor is to inhabit the life and mind of their character. Write a journal or diary entry from the viewpoint of a modern day bully and their perspective. Then, write an entry as Cassius. Compare and contrast your two characters to develop a background for these characters.

Literary

Early in *Julius Caesar* we hear the tale of how Cassius saved Caesar's life as he was drowning. Write a story about how a character saves their enemy from danger. Are they the hero or the villain of the story? Why would they save their enemy? How does the story turn out for the characters? Do they become friends or is it similar end to Caesar's where it worsens the relationship?

Remember- not every story has to have a happy ending. A good ending is one where the reader feels fulfilled.



On-Demand Writing for Act II Scene ii

In this scene, Calpurnia urges Caesar to not leave the house because she fears for his life. This scene reveals much about his character; he thinks of himself as courageous and fearless. However, he is also aware of the power of public opinion.

Should we allow people's perceptions to dictate our behavior? Why or why not? For this essay, please draw specific examples from the play as well as from your personal experiences. A sample outline has been provided to assist with pre-writing/organization. Your final draft should be 1-2 pages.

Fill In Your Outline Here:

INTRODUCTION

- Lead-In
 - Be sure to include both pros and cons of the subject matter under consideration
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- Thesis Statement
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BODY

- Introduce facts of the case objectively
- Prove your thesis with arguments
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
- Disprove your opponents' arguments

CONCLUSION

- Concluding sentence
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- Re-state main points
- Leave the reader thinking!