

Name: _____

Period: _____

Julius Caesar Argumentative Essay

Writing Prompt: *Based on Caesar's actions and his behavior, was it a good idea for the conspirators to murder Caesar for the good of Rome? Use examples from the play and from real life to support your argument about how the citizens should/should not take drastic measures for the benefit of their country/republic.*

How to structure your essay:

Paragraph 1 – **Opening** that introduces the concept of taking drastic measures for the benefit of one's country/republic. The last sentence in this paragraph is your thesis which needs to state whether it was a good idea or not for the conspirators to murder Caesar.

Paragraph 2 – **Counterargument** that lists the reasons opposite to your thesis. (For example, if you said it was a good idea for the conspirators to murder Caesar, then this paragraph needs to explain why some people may think that this idea was a bad idea.)

Paragraph 3 – **Argument** that lists the reasons that support your thesis. Include as many specific details from *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar* as possible. You may include reasons Cassius, Brutus, or any of the others give for rising against Caesar. Use a quote from the text to capture what these characters say.

Paragraph 4 – **Argument** that lists more reasons that support your thesis. Do not repeat anything you already explained in paragraph 3. You may expand your argument to include details from real life, including an anecdote about a time in history that people rose up against a dictator. (Choose your example/s carefully because if you think it's a good idea to rise up, you should pick an example in which the rebellion was successful; if you think it's not a good idea to rise up, you should pick an example in which the rebellion failed or brought about a worse situation.)

Paragraph 5 – **Closing** that ties up your ideas on what should be done about a leader like Caesar. Sum up your ideas on what the citizens' role is in a country/republic. Sum up your ideas on how citizens should behave in a society. Sum up your ideas on how a leader should lead his/her people.

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| It was a GOOD idea to murder Caesar. | It was a BAD idea to murder Caesar. |
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