

Name: _____

Date: _____

Period: _____

Julius Caesar

Advanced ACE | Constructed Responses

Directions: You will be expected to answer these discussion questions as we read the play. Use the advanced ACE writing strategy (topic sentence, elaboration, quote, explanation, tie back). I suggest that you complete a few each day as posted on the PPT. However, I understand that you each have other classes and extracurricular commitments. Therefore, you can manage your time and complete them as you wish. However, they will be collected at the end of our unit (January 23rd). If you have questions or do not understand something, please ask. It will save your time and your grade.

1. **(Class Divides & Characterization)**. What is so telling about the introductory scene between the four men? Two are from the upper class (who oppose Caesar) and two are from the working class (who praise Caesar). Consider the implications that are introduced from the start regarding Caesar's rise to power and the differentiated opinions of him.
2. **(Differing Motives)**. Though Cassius and Brutus both work closely with Caesar, their reasons for conspiring against him differ. Explain the motives for each character and discuss the implications inherent with each description of the motive.
3. **(Political Statement)**. What might be Shakespeare's purpose in creating such an ambiguous opinion of Julius Caesar? How might his utilization of ambiguity shed insight into the nature of politics at the social and governmental levels? Explain thoroughly.
4. **(Ambiguous Foreshadowing)**. Discuss and analyze three of the omens present within the play. How does the interpretation of these omens support AND contradict the conspiracy against JC?
5. **(All That Feminist Stuff)**. *Julius Caesar* is a play dominated by male leads. However, the reader is given insight into the role of women through Portia (Brutus' wife) and Calpurnia (Caesar's [then] wife). How do their roles in the play make a statement for women during that time and the relationship of husbands and wives as portrayed in the play? (For the Skeptics: I am asking you to commit the liberal arts sin of generalization here for the sake of understanding symbolic translation.)
6. **(Foil Characters)**. Using the Advanced ACE structure, make an argument to explain how Brutus and Cassius are different from one another. Think about each character's motive for wanting to assassinate Caesar. Explain thoroughly.
7. **(Character Development)**. Discuss and analyze the evolution of Brutus from the first half of the play up to this point. How has he changed as a character? Would you consider him an antagonist or a protagonist at this point? Explain both questions in depth.