

ENGLISH 10

December 10th



Writing Assessment #2

**Making a Claim:
Brutus' Decision**

Instructions

1. For this assessment, write an Argumentative Essay, including the following elements:
 - A. The Argumentative Organization / Format that you've practiced
 1. make a claim based on the following prompt and make sure to take a side on the issue
 2. remember to include and address arguments that are counter to your position
 - B. Use complete sentences, formal style, and appropriate grammar and conventions
 - C. Include quotations and events from the text as evidence to support your argument

Prompt

Based on your reading of Shakespeare's play Julius Caesar, write a well-organized, argumentative essay in which you decide if Brutus chose correctly when he decided to betray and kill his friend, Caesar, to defend his country, Rome.

A reminder of the essay writing process

1. Analyze the prompt.
2. Brainstorm possible claims and evidence that matches those claims
3. Discuss your claims and evidence.
4. Create an initial claim statement (thesis)
5. Organize the evidence and support for that claim statement.
6. Write a clear thesis statement based on your claim statement.
(check and share)
7. Identify primary counter-claims to your thesis statement.
8. Write your introductory paragraph. (Draft)
9. Write a counter-claim (antithesis) paragraph. (Draft)
10. Write at least two supporting paragraphs. (Draft)
11. Write a concluding paragraph. (Draft)
12. Revise your essay for ideas, transitions, and fluency.
13. Edit your essay for grammar, usage, mechanics, spelling and format.

T.A.K.

- **What is the topic for this essay?**
- **Who is the audience for this essay?**
- **What key words let you know what must appear in this essay?**
- **Turn the prompt into a question.**

Brainstorm/Research T-chart

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Reasons that Brutus is correct to kill Caesar</p> | <p>Reasons that Brutus is wrong to kill Caesar</p> |
| <p>• Caesar demonstrates his ambitious power when he has Flavius and Murellus put to death (1.2.280-281).</p> | <p>• Brutus has no reason to hate or fear Caesar currently- he only fears what “might” happen and that Caesar might be dangerous if he were king (2.1.11-17).</p> |

| <u>Brutus DID the right thing...</u> | | <u>Brutus DID NOT do the right thing...</u> | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p>Think of the abuse of power</p> <p>Act 1, Scene 2 Lines 12-24 Lines 79-83 Lines 90-161</p> | <p>Lines 249-254 Lines 280-281</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act 2, Scene 1 Lines 10-34 • Act 3 Brutus' funeral speech | <p>Think of friendship and manipulation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act 1, Scene 2 Line 83 Lines 220-230 Lines 303-317 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act 2, Scene 1 Lines 10-11 • Act 3 Antony's funeral speech |

Discuss

- **With a partner, share the evidence you found for both sides of the issue.**
- **Discuss which side you are going to take and why.**
- **Make sure you have evidence that is convincing, especially compared to the counterclaims.**

Thesis Building

- Remember, your thesis should CLEARLY state your side on the issue. Brutus either was right or wrong, there is no in between!

Thesis Building

Brutus was right when he decided to kill Caesar because:

- Caesar was dangerous for Rome
- Caesar's ambition caused harm to others
- Brutus could not allow a king in Rome

Brutus was wrong when he decided to kill Caesar because:

- Caesar was not truly ambitious
- Caesar was only kind to Brutus and never a threat
- Brutus was mainly convinced by people who were jealous of Caesar's power

THESIS FRAME:

- While __ (mention the other side) __, in fact... (write your claim statement)
- Brutus __ (mention the other side) __, but... (write your claim statement)

Sample Thesis

While the character of Mark Antony in Shakespeare's Julius Caesar might seem heroic at first, his words and actions show that he does not care for his country or its people and that he only cares for revenge against those he holds responsible for Caesar's death.