

ENGLISH 10

December 11th



Writing Assessment #2

**Making a Claim:
Brutus' Decision**

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.

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.

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.

Write Your Introduction

Elements:

1. A hook- A way to engage your audience in the argument (Why is this important?)
2. The context of the argument: background, situation, people involved (What or who does this affect?)
3. Narrowing to your specific argument (What specifically will you be addressing? What will your argument be about (without making the claim)?)
4. Thesis (What are you claiming?) – **From yesterday**

Hooks

Common Hook Methods:

1. Ask a question
2. Use a few well-chosen words
3. Present a bold, challenging statement (shocker)
4. Use a teaser lead
5. Incorporate a quote

Introduction Building

- **Be sure to introduce the title of the play and the author**
 - The Tragedy of Julius Caesar by William Shakespeare
- **Introduce the reader to the issue at hand**
 - Brutus killed Caesar
- **State your claim (thesis)**

Sample Introduction

Many think of tragedy as simply a series of bad events, but true tragedy is built when a character makes a mistaken decision. William Shakespeare's play, The Tragedy of Julius Caesar, shows just this kind of mistaken decision making. From a number of characters from the title character, Caesar, to his betrayer, Brutus, the characters all have motivations that are not in their best interest or in the interest of their country. Among these characters, Mark Antony initially seems to be the most heroic, especially because he is the apparent "winner" in the end of the play. However, 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.

Thesis