

01

# A Roman Dilemma

Friends, Romans, Countrymen lend me your ears! You are a Roman citizen in the year 44 B.C. Your beloved city is in turmoil after the assassination of Julius Caesar. You take great pride in your city and its accomplishments. You realize that Rome is surrounded by barbarians who are looking to invade, conquer and destroy everything that is Roman. You know that Caesar was a brilliant general who defeated many of the barbarians and kept Rome safe. You also realize that Caesar has done many things to help the people of Rome and to improve it.

You are also proud of the fact that you have many rights in Rome that you would not find anywhere else in the civilized world. You have a say in your government and you fear losing that freedom. Like all Romans, you fear the prospect of being ruled by a king or monarch. Despite all the good that Caesar has done for the people, he has acted in ways that suggest that he may be looking to control the government. If Caesar takes over, you may lose some of the rights that you currently enjoy.

You are at the funeral of Julius Caesar and witness what occurs. Two men will speak at the funeral, Brutus and Marc Antony. Brutus is the first to speak. Let's listen to what he has to say.



Romans, countrymen, and lovers! Hear me for my cause, and be silent, that you may hear: believe me for mine honour, and have respect to mine honour, that you may believe: censure me in your wisdom, and awake your senses, that you may be the better judge.

If there be any in this assembly, any dear friend of Caesar's, to him I say, that Brutus' love for Caesar was no less than his. If then that friend demand why Brutus rose against Caesar, this is my answer: --Not that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved Rome more. Had you rather Caesar were living and die all slaves, than that Caesar were dead, to live all free men?

Wow! That was a powerful speech! What do you think he meant?

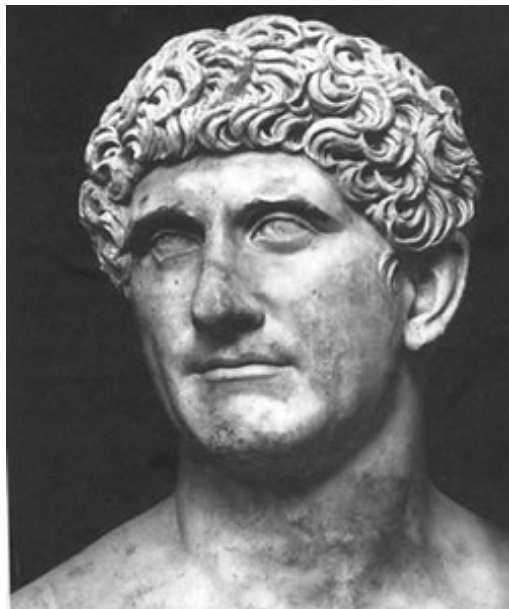
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Marc Antony is the next to step to the pulpit to speak. Here is what he has to say:



Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears;  
I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him.  
The evil that men do lives after them.

Come I to speak in Caesar's funeral.  
He was my friend, faithful and just to me:  
But Brutus says he was ambitious;  
And Brutus is an honourable man.  
He hath brought many captives home to Rome  
Whose ransoms did the general coffers fill:  
Did this in Caesar seem ambitious?  
When that the poor have cried, Caesar hath wept:  
Ambition should be made of sterner stuff:  
Yet Brutus says he was ambitious;  
And Brutus is an honourable man.  
You all did see that on the Lupercal  
I thrice presented him a kingly crown,  
Which he did thrice refuse: was this ambition?

Oh my! That was equally compelling! What do you think Marc Antony meant?

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You must make the next speech. Who will you side with? Do you agree with Marc Antony or Brutus? You must make a speech to **persuade** your fellow Romans to follow Marc Antony or Brutus. You must follow the speech outline on the next page and include the life and achievements of Julius Caesar to convince citizens that Caesar was a power hungry tyrant **or** that he was wrongly murdered and Rome would have been better off with him in charge.

Good Luck! The fate of Rome is in your hands!

## I. Introduction

- a. A strong lead-in sentence (quote, anecdote, intriguing statement, shocking statement, Rhetorical question etc.)
- b. A brief summary of Caesar's assassination
- c. Your statement on whether you agree with Marc Antony or Brutus: Did Caesar deserve to die? Did the senate make a mistake?

## II. Body

- a. Paragraph One: Evidence 1
  - i. Detail
  - ii. Detail
  - iii. Detail
  - iv. Transition sentence
- b. Paragraph Two: Evidence t 2
  - i. Detail
  - ii. Detail
  - iii. Detail
  - iv. Transition Sentence
- c. Paragraph Three: Evidence 3
  - i. Detail
  - ii. Detail
  - iii. Detail
  - iv. Transition sentence

## III. Conclusion Paragraph

- a. Restate your position
- b. Review your supports
- c. Leave the audience thinking