

Simple Sample Outlines for *Julius Caesar* Paper

Option #1

Introduction

What is good and what is bad? Can death be bad and good? The average student may say that this is paradoxical, but William Shakespeare reveals a deeper truth in the play *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*, and he shows the reader that the death of Caesar is bad, while the death of Cassius is good, though dishonorable, and the death of Brutus is good and honorable.

Body paragraph #1

the death of Caesar is bad

Body paragraph #2

the death of Cassius is good, though dishonorable

Body paragraph #3

the death of Brutus is good and honorable.

Body paragraph #4

Define tragedy and a tragic hero and show how of all of them, only Brutus is a tragic hero.

Conclusion:

Discuss the overall idea of death related to tragedy and how Shakespeare tried to give the reader a sense of the human condition and death. Discuss how you feel as a reader and what you learned about Roman beliefs and tragedy.

Simple Sample Outlines for *Julius Caesar* Paper

Option #2

Introduction

Shakespeare's tragedy uses literary devices to improve the drama.

Body paragraph #1

Define tragedy using quote from Aristotle

Body paragraph #2

Restate quote about language from Aristotle.
Use example of literary devices (foreshadowing)

Body paragraph #3

Use example of literary devices (characterization)

Body paragraph #4

Use example of literary devices (characterization)

Body paragraph #5

Define tragic hero and show how only Brutus is a tragic hero.

Conclusion:

Discuss the overall idea of death related to tragedy and how Shakespeare tried to give the reader a sense of the human condition and death. Discuss how you feel as a reader and what you learned about Roman beliefs and tragedy.

Simple Sample Outlines for *Julius Caesar* Paper, Option #3

Introduction

Writers reflect upon the best and worst of people and create timeless works of literature based on their triumphs and failures, their strengths and their weaknesses. One of the greatest writers in the English language is William Shakespeare, and he uses one of history's most famous events: the killing of Julius Caesar. Although Shakespeare borrows the facts, he also adds much of his own artistry to the play *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*. Shakespeare's tragedy uses literary devices to create a drama that teaches the audience a larger lesson about life and death.

Body paragraph #1 Define tragedy using quote from Aristotle. Explain why you think the play *Julius Caesar* is a tragedy. Include this quote:

“Tragedy, then, is an imitation of an action that is serious, complete, and of a certain magnitude; in language embellished with each kind of artistic ornament, the several kinds being found in separate parts of the play; in the form of action, not of narrative; through pity and fear effecting the proper purgation of these emotions” (Aristotle, *Poetics*).

Body paragraph #2 Restate quote about language from Aristotle. Use example of literary devices (imagery that is also foreshadowing).

Shakespeare follows Aristotle's direction on how to create a tragedy by using “language embellished with each kind of artistic ornament” (*Poetics*). With rich images that also foreshadow the action, he improves the drama. The following are examples of this:

Body paragraph #3 Use example of literary devices (characterization where images and language used well—like the Colossus or the serpent's egg, for example, for Caesar.)

Again, Shakespeare follows Aristotle's direction on how to create a tragedy by using “language embellished with each kind of artistic ornament” (*Poetics*). This time, however, he uses language to shape the characters and to describe them in unique ways. For example, about _____ he says,

Body paragraph #4 Use example of literary devices (characterization where there is moral purpose; literary device may be irony, or tragic hero, for example)

Shakespeare also gives us richly a described character, Brutus, who, as Aristotle says, “reveals moral purpose, showing the kind of things a man chooses or avoids” (*Poetics*). (Mention a literary device used, and how. Discuss moral choice character faces and how you feel about his decision.)

Body paragraph #5 Define tragic hero and show how only Brutus is a tragic hero.

Conclusion:

Discuss the overall idea of death related to tragedy and how Shakespeare tried to give the reader a sense of the human condition and death. Discuss how you feel as a reader and what you learned about Roman beliefs and tragedy and how you as a reader feel about that.