

## Julius Caesar Project

You and your classmates have been transported back in time - to the time of Julius Caesar and the Roman Empire. You have been asked to design and publish a newspaper that isn't biased and includes news articles about different social classes, government activities and current events. You will need to name your newspaper and the date of publication is March 16 44 B.C. Outside research will be necessary for you to gain additional knowledge to complete your assignment. This project is worth 100 points. Here's the plan.

- You will be working in small groups.
- Your grade will be based upon both individual and group work. You will have some class time to work on this project but it is expected that you will work outside of class to complete it.
- All content in the newspaper must be true to the facts/details of the play. Any details you add must be historically relevant. As much as possible, use the real characters and setting from the play.
- Your newspaper needs to be formatted to resemble a real newspaper and contain the following:

### News Articles:

A good news article answers the basic questions: who, what, when, where, why and how. Use direct quotes from the play to support your article. These quotes should be properly cited using MLA format. A good reporter will report both or all sides of the story. Use a real news story as your model for writing this story. Create a headline for the story and make sure it has a byline. Read stories in newspapers to get the sound and structure of a common news story. (News is on the front page. Other types of articles are found elsewhere in the newspaper).

#### 1. News articles - total of 6

- You will need to do additional research to complete some of these articles. They are reflective of the time period, but not necessarily *Julius Caesar*.
- a) 3 news stories regarding national/world events. Use information learned at the beginning of the unit and your own research - be factually accurate.
  - i. One story must be about the murder of Julius Caesar.
  - ii. One story must be about politics/government regarding Rome (i.e. Pompey, leaders' actions, dictators, etc.)
  - iii. Your choice. Research will be needed for this article.
- b) 3 news stories regarding local events. You must have at least 3 sources per topic here. Please use the following topics:
  - i. Gladiators, chariot races or entertainment of this time period.
  - ii. Weddings. Write an account of a plebeian wedding in Rome (including family background).
  - iii. Family life. Write about an event that would be of interest to plebeians. (Hints: How do they spend their time? What do they do for work?)

For your stories, you will need to document your research.

- Local articles: You need to have at least 3 different sources for each of the local topics (total of 9).
- National/world articles: You need to have at least 3 different sources for the "Your choice" article (total of 3). If you choose to do outside research for the other national stories, you may have as many sources as you would like.
- At minimum, you need 12 outside sources. Do not forget to cite/document *Julius Caesar*.
- Use MLA format for your citations and a works cited page. Use information you received during the first quarter and/or the internet to make sure you are formatting correctly. As a group, you should hand in one works cited page.

### **Editorials:**

An editorial is an opinion piece written by the senior editorial staff or publisher of a newspaper or magazine. Editorials are usually unsigned and may be used to reflect the opinion of the periodical. Additionally, most print publications feature an editorial, or letter followed by a "Letters to the Editor" section. In major newspapers, such as the *New York Times* and the *Boston Globe*, editorials are classified under the heading "opinion." Typically, a newspaper's editorial board evaluates which issues are important to their readers.

#### **2. Editorial page - total of 3**

- a) 1 opinion/editorial piece
- b) 2 letters to the editor from citizens of Rome. Choose 2.
  - i. One of the conspirators who changed his mind and wants to assuage his guilt anonymously in the newspaper.
  - ii. Citizen of Rome writing in about political or government changes. They can be either "for" or "against" a change.
  - iii. Member of Brutus' family writing in about anything that may be relevant.

### **Obituary:**

An obituary is a newspaper account of a person's death and life. It generally includes the main events of his or her life, the person's family, and any special accomplishments from his or her life. If the person's death was "famous," there might be details of the circumstances. The audience for the obituary is the general public.

#### **3. Obituaries - total of 1**

- a) *Julius Caesar*

We will give you an outline to follow. Once you complete the outline, then you need to turn it into an obituary. You may add information to complete the outline, but be sure it is appropriate.

#### **4. Pictures/drawings - total of 2**

- a) 2 pictures with captions related to topics in your newspaper.

## Responsibility

- Individually, you are responsible for writing an original piece, which will be graded using the attached rubric. For your individual pieces, you may consult members of your own group for ideas and editing. However, each of you is ultimately responsible for your own work. Your individual work is worth 60% of your grade.
- As a group, you are going to decide who is going to write each piece. You will create the newspaper together using the individual pieces AND include two pictures with captions. The group is to decide which pictures to use and write the captions.
- As a group, you must meet all the minimum requirements. See recap below. The group work is 40% of your grade and you will be graded using the attached rubric.
- You are free to use your notes, study guides and play. Use your time wisely.
- We are expecting great work from you! Good luck!
- Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Minimum Requirements:</b>		<b>Optional, but will enhance your newspaper:</b>
3 National Event Stories		Political Cartoons
3 Local Event Stories		Review of local play
1 Editorial		Crossword Puzzle related to vocabulary terms presented throughout the unit
2 Letters to Editor		Advertisement for product, job or house
1 Obituary		Other details found in newspapers
2 Pictures with captions		Sports Section
Works Cited page - minimum of 13 sources		