

Act 3 Scene 1: The Assassination & The Aftermath

Warm Up Questions

1. For a moment after the assassination, the action seems to stop since the conspirators have achieved their goal. What do you predict will take place in the remainder of the play, and how will it involve Mark Antony? Why do you think so? Support your answer with knowledge that you've gained from the play so far.

Today's Activity

1. In pairs, read aloud together (you can decide how you alternate) pages 38-40. In the space below, summarize in 3-4 sentences the **key ideas** in this section of the text.

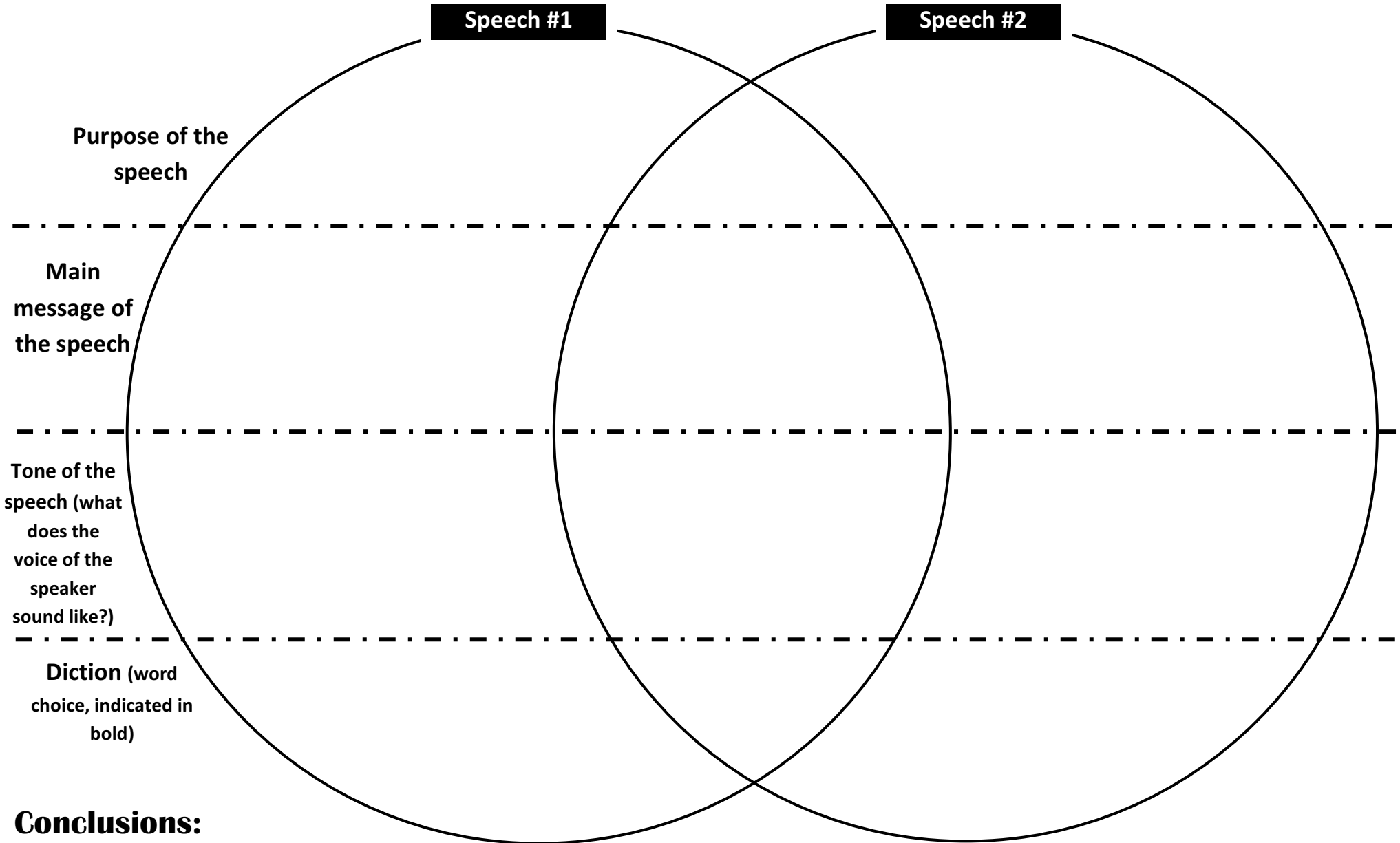
2. When you've finished reading the end of the scene, **compare and contrast** the two important speeches made by Antony in this scene. Fill out the Venn Diagram on the back of this sheet and then at the bottom, summarize your findings.

ANTONY: I doubt not of your wisdom.
Let each man render me his bloody hand.
First, Marcus Brutus, will I shake with you
Next, Caius Cassius, do I take your hand;
Now, Decius Brutus, yours; now yours, Metellus;
Yours, Cinna; and, my valiant Casca, yours;
Though last, not least in love, yours, good Trebonius.
Gentlemen all,—alas, what shall I say?
My credit now stands on such slippery ground,
That one of two bad ways you must conceit me,
Either a coward or a flatterer.
That I did love thee, Caesar, O, 'tis true!
If then thy spirit look upon us now,
Shall it not grieve thee dearer than thy death
To see thy Antony making his peace,
Shaking the bloody fingers of thy **foes**,
Most noble! In the presence of thy corpse?
Had I as many eyes as thou hast wounds,
Weeping as fast as they stream forth thy blood,
It would become me better than to close
In terms of **friendship** with thine enemies.
Pardon me, Julius! Here wast thou bay'd, brave hart,
Here didst thou fall, and here thy **hunters** stand,
Sign'd in thy spoil, and crimson'd in thy lethe.
O world, thou wast the forest to this heart,
And this, indeed, O world, the heart of thee.
How like a deer stricken by many **princes**
Dost thou here lie!

ANTONY: O, pardon me, thou bleeding piece of earth,
That I am meek and gentle with these **butchers!**
Thou art the ruins of the noblest man
That ever lived in the tide of times.
Woe to the hand that shed this costly blood!
Over thy wounds now do I prophesy
Which like dumb mouths do ope their ruby lips
To beg the voice and utterance of my tongue,
A **curse** shall light upon the limbs of men;
Domestic **fury** and **fierce** civil **strife**
Shall cumber all the parts of Italy;
Blood and destruction shall be so in use,⁽²⁸⁵⁾
And dreadful objects so familiar,
That mothers shall but smile when they behold
Their **infants quarter'd with the hands of war;**
All pity choked with custom of fell deeds,
And Caesar's spirit ranging for **revenge**,
With Ate by his side come **hot from hell**,
Shall in these confines with a monarch's voice
Cry "**Havoc!**" and **let slip the dogs of war**,
That this **foul** deed shall smell above the earth
With carrion men, groaning for burial.

Compare and Contrast

In the ovals below, note your observations about the similarities (in the center) and the differences (in the outside parts of the circles) between the two important speeches that Antony gives in 3.1. Use **EVIDENCE FROM THE TEXT** whenever possible. An example has been done for you.



What do you notice about Antony's role in the play now? Does this match any of your predictions?