*The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*

Eulogy Assignment

**Eulogy: a speech or piece of writing that praises someone or something highly, typically someone who has just died.**

Directions:

While pretending to be a Roman citizen, write a eulogy for one of the characters who died during the play, *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*.

Your eulogy should mention the following things:

1. What this character accomplished: What are the good things he did with his life that he should be praised for?
2. His relationships: What relationships did he have with other people? In what specific ways did those people benefit from knowing him?
3. How he died: Was this character’s death noble? Did he die helping others or for a belief that should be praised?
4. Effect on the community: What effect did this Roman have on his community?

You will be graded based on two things:

1. How well your eulogy mentions specific instances from the life of the character you are writing about.
2. How well you can use the rhetorical appeals (ethos, pathos, and logos) and the rhetorical devices (Rhetorical question, repetition, connotative language, contrast, etc.) to convince the audience that they person who you are speaking of deserves praise.

Because you are pretending to be a Roman, you may make up and reference specific instances in which you and the deceased interacted, but the majority of your eulogy should be based on actual events from the play.

How to Use Rhetorical Appeals in Your Eulogy

Rhetorical Appeals: The three main methods used to persuade someone.

* Ethos: Using the reputation of an expert to add to the credibility and weight of your statement.
* Pathos: Influencing someone’s emotions in order to convince them that your statement is correct.
* Logos: Using facts, statistics, or a logical flow to persuade someone of the validity (i.e. truthfulness or rightness) of your statement.

Model: Eulogy for Obi-Wan Kenobi as written by Luke Skywalker (Post *Star Wars: A New Hope*)

**Eulogy: a speech or piece of writing that praises someone or something highly, typically someone who has just died.**

Prewriting:

* Details I know:
  + Obi-Wan Kenobi sacrificed himself for me, so I could escape Darth Vader.
    - Pathos: I would have died if Obi-Wan hadn’t saved me. (Wow! That’s really heroic of Obi-Wan. That really inspires me!)
  + Jedi were guardians of peace and justice, which is a good thing to be.
    - A “master” is one of the highest ranks a Jedi could achieve.
      * Logos: If Jedi were guardians of peace and justice (claim A) and Obi-Wan was a Jedi master (claim B), he must have been a great man who did a lot for the citizens of the galaxy.
  + He was a friend of my father’s.
    - In some ways Obi-Wan was like a second father to Luke.
      * Pathos: I never knew my father, so Obi-Wan was the only connection I had to him. (Aww! Poor Luke! That’s inspiring sympathy, students!)
      * Pathos: Because I never knew my father, Obi-Wan became like a father to me. (Double aww!)

Example:

* Introduce yourself: What is your name and your connection to the deceased?

*Fellow rebels, my name is Luke Skywalker. I was a friend and student of the great Jedi general, Obi-Wan Kenobi.*

* Describe what this character accomplished: What are the good things he did with his life that he should be praised for? (**Be sure to mention specific details!)**

*General Obi-Wan Kenobi was a great warrior in the Clone Wars and a Jedi master. Since he once described the Jedi as “Guardians of peace and justice” and was a Jedi* ***master****, he must have helped many people during his time with us.*

* How he died: Was this character’s death noble? Did he die helping others or for a belief that should be praised? (**Be sure to mention specific details!)**

*As you know, General Kenobi, Ben, recently sacrificed himself so that Princess Leia and I could escape Darth Vader, flee the Death Star, deliver the battle plans, and destroy that dreaded battle station. I can still see Old Ben. He was standing right across from Darth Vader, both of them with their lightsabers drawn and both surrounded by stormtroopers. I would have been terrified, but Ben, his face was so calm as Vader’s lightsaber cut him down. He didn’t even try to defend himself. It was almost like he didn’t care. You know? It was almost like he knew something that Vader didn’t. If it were not for Ben’s distraction, I am sure that my friends and I and all of you would be dead.*

* Effect on the community: What effect did this person have on his community?

*While I didn’t know him back then, Ben must have saved many people during the Clone Wars. As a Jedi, he fought many battles and helped do his best to bring peace to the galaxy. And when Princess Leia Organa and her father called for him to return to help in the fight against the Empire, he answered. All of us here today and many more owe him their lives.*

*Besides his deeds as a warrior and a general, Ben was also a teacher. He taught my father and me and probably many others. Through his good example of what a Jedi and a man should be, we learned how to be good as well.*

* His relationships: What relationships did he have with other people? In what specific ways did those people benefit from knowing him? (**Be sure to mention specific details!)**

*I never really knew my father. He died when I was very young. Sure, my Uncle Owen and Aunt Beru would tell me stories about him, how he was supposedly a captain on a freighter. Boy, Old Ben sure painted a different story though. He told me stories about my father. He said that my father was a Jedi knight, that he fought in the Clone Wars, that he was a great pilot, and that he was a great friend. For the first time in forever, I felt like I knew my father, just for an instant. Old Ben made me feel like my father was special, like I was special. Once I left Tatooine, Ben became my teacher. He taught me the ways of the Force, well, at least he was beginning to. Yeah, Ben was my teacher, but when my aunt and uncle died, Ben was all I had left. Though I never told him, and now I guess I never will, he was kind of like a father to me.*

* Closing statement: A summarizing statement about how you will miss the character or be inspired by their passing.

*Though I knew him only a short time, General Obi-Wan Kenobi had a great impact on me. As a teacher, as a friend, and as a father, he will always be with me, and during the dark times, I will keep his final words to me written on my heart, “The Force will be with you, always.”*

Eulogy Template:

Introduce yourself: What is your name and your connection to the deceased?

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Describe what this character accomplished: What are the good things he did with his life that he should be praised for? (**Be sure to mention specific details from the play!)**

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His relationships: What relationships did he have with other people? In what specific ways did those people benefit from knowing him?

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How he died: Was this character’s death noble? Did he die helping others or for a belief that should be praised?

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Effect on the community: What effect did this Roman have on his community?

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Closing statement: A summarizing statement about how you will miss the character or be inspired by their passing. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_