

JULIUS CAESAR EULOGY

Military Campaigns

Thousands of books have been written over millennia by men and women who analyze every movement of Caesar's armies, finding him the most brilliant general ever to command Roman legions, finding his reputation largely luck and legend, and every position in between. Few dispute, however, that Caesar's bond with his armies was extraordinary in his own time and in all history. They also agree that Caesar's reputation as a military leader is sublime; even if there are quibbles about his recklessness and how much his fabled luck had to do with his reputation, Caesar's ability to analyze terrain and logistics, anticipate what his opponents would do, move like the wind, take advantage of the unexpected, take calculated risks, win the undying love of his army, and never, ever give in, makes him one of the two or three greatest commanders in western history.

Gaul to the Rubicon

For almost a sixth of his life - from 58 to 49 BC- Julius Caesar lived absent from Rome, conquering one of the largest stretches of hostile territory ever brought into its Empire. The series of brilliant offensive campaigns he waged against the tribes of Gaul, Belgium and Germany rivaled the successes of Rome's legendary generals. He was the first commander in Roman history to build a bridge across the Rhine and carry war into the enemy's country. His venture to the island of Britannia, half-mythical to the Roman world (to which it was largely unknown), riveted the attention of political Europe. He brought, for better or worse, the Celtic tribes of "Long-haired Gaul" firmly into the Roman Empire, with an exhausted peace that would outlast him by centuries.

Legacy

In the last five years of his life, Caesar prevailed in Civil Wars in Asia and Spain, conquered Egypt, rose to undreamed-of power in the Roman state, was honored like a god for the first time in Roman history, and murdered by his closest associates when they believed he sought the power in name which he already held in fact. For Caesar, as later said of the murdered "Now he belongs to the ages." The question of the precise nature of Caesar's contribution to the ages has been debated since his death. He is viewed as the callous destroyer of the Republic; as the far-sighted realist who saw clearly the need for one-man rule to fulfill Rome's Imperial destiny; as the reformer who fought the decay of the status quo; as the megalomaniac who leveled Rome's foundations for his own glory. He was, to some extent, all of these things. Today, there are those who admire him and those who despise him, but no historian of Roman (and European) history can afford to ignore him.

YOUR ASSIGNMENT:

Caesar left an indelible mark upon history. Love and hatred, these opposing views only begin to tell the story of this powerful leader. What you must do is tell the story of Julius Caesar—through a eulogy. In a eulogy, the author attempts to "capture the essence" of the person. In other words, you manage to sum up the numerous events of a life into a few details that present an accurate picture of that person. Therefore, you must carefully choose what to include. This is different from an obituary where only facts are presented. A eulogy tells a story.

You will write a eulogy that, when spoken aloud, runs for between 1 ½ - 3 minutes about the life of Julius Caesar. *It should not exceed 3 minutes.* Focus on the events that "capture the essence" of this complex personality. Specifically, include details about his rise to dictator of Rome, as well as his military exploits. You will be graded on the content of your eulogy.

/40points

RUBRIC	Unacceptable	Needs Improvement	Proficient	Exemplary
Read purposefully	<p>Did not read the assignment sheet. Not acceptable.</p> <p>Content is unacceptable or weak due to inaccuracies and/or incompleteness.</p>	<p>Format has several errors.</p> <p>Does not follow directions.</p> <p>Weak content within the assignment demonstrates inaccuracies, irrelevance. Content is weak through majority of assignment.</p> <p>Duration NOT between 1 ½ and 3 minutes.</p> <p>14</p>	<p>Reads assignment sheet, follows directions and completes assignment according to directions in correct format with few errors.</p> <p>All content within the assignment demonstrates research is accurate and relevant.</p> <p>Content lacks some details.</p> <p>Duration between 1 ½ and 3 minutes.</p> <p>17</p>	<p>Reads assignment sheet, follows directions and completes assignment according to directions in correct format.</p> <p>All content within the assignment demonstrates research is accurate and relevant.</p> <p>Duration between 1 ½ and 3 minutes.</p> <p>20</p>
Write & Communicate effectively	<p>Writing is disorganized. Grammar, spelling, punctuation or capitalization errors are unacceptable. Did not proofread.</p>	<p>Many spelling, grammar, punctuation and capitalization errors; Word selection, word choice and sentence structure needs improvement. Need to proofread final product. Needs extensive editing.</p> <p>No story is told of Julius Caesar. Limited biographical information.</p> <p>14</p>	<p>Few spelling, grammar, punctuation and capitalization errors; Could have been more carefully edited. Word selection, word choice and sentence structure could have been more varied.</p> <p>Content is exclusively biographical in nature – listing events.</p> <p>17</p>	<p>Excellent spelling, grammar, punctuation and capitalization; carefully edited. Excellent word selection. Varied word choice. Varied sentence structure. Well written and comprehensive.</p> <p>Very meaningful content that "tells a story of Julius Caesar".</p> <p>20</p>