Essay Topic:

_Ancient Studies CWRA Exercise 2017 (College & Work Readiness Assessment) – Students must:_

*Use evidence from selected course readings to argue for or against Brutus killing Caesar*
*Construct an organized and logically cohesive argument; elaborate on facts or ideas*
*Demonstrate command of writing mechanics, including grammar, syntax, and diction*

The Situation:

It is early on the morning of the Ides of March. You are Cicero. You know the thoughts and positions of Caesar, Antony, Brutus, and Cassius as well as the ins and outs of Roman history, and you have the best interests of Rome at heart. You have just learned of the conspiracy developing against Caesar.

The Task:

You must hastily write a letter to Brutus either urging him forward in the plot or stopping him short before he takes the fateful step. The stakes are high — advancing the plot puts your life at risk at the hand of Antony, while cutting it off might make you a target of Cassius and other determined conspirators.

The key is that “Cicero” must **persuade** Brutus to take one action or the other. (Persuasion on the basis of multiple and often conflicting items of evidence is at the heart of this task.)
Indeed, Caesar, the great champion of the people, had now become in effect an AUTOCRAT, on the verge of becoming a god. (101)

It was this clash of ideas that would ENTWINE the lives of Julius Caesar and Pompey the Great, and that would rock the entire Roman world to its foundations. (101)

What turned this IDEOLOGICAL debate about freedom into a bloody, violent, and messy revolution was a highly personal quality: dignity. (102)

Ironically, it would be the very same quality that would drive Julius Caesar to fight a civil war and to destroy the corrupt aristocratic MILIEU that so cherished it. (102)

The contemporary writer Varro called these FACTIONS the ‘two heads’ of the Republic. (103)

But while the Plebeian Assembly had become more powerful, it was also more SUSCEPTIBLE to exploitation. (104)

The allegiance of the army sealed, Sulla then marched on Rome, killed the tribune responsible for the veto against him, took over the republic by force in a lightning COUP D'ETAT and appointed himself dictator. (105)

PROSCRIPTION lists were posted in the Forum, and Sulla’s soldiers and supporters were charged with hunting down his enemies. (106)

Pompey was a young man on the make and UNENCUMBERED by any sentimental attachment to the political traditions of the republic past. (107)

It would confirm that [Pompey] had won the personal loyalty both of the Roman army and of the kings, POTENTATES and peoples in the east. (109)

Through his eloquence, EBULLIENT charm and friendly good manners, he showed how easily he could win people over. (110)

Even Cato, the PRIGGISH adherer to the letter of the law, resorted to bribery to promote a conservative candidate, his son-in-law Marcus Bibulus. (113)

The energetic Caesar, meanwhile, simply boycotted the Senate House and the normal procedures of politics, and brought all his populist legislation without HINDRANCE direct to the people’s assembly. (115)
‘The truth is,’ wrote Cicero, ‘the present regime is the most infamous, most disgraceful, most uniformly ODIOUS to all sorts and classes and ages of men that ever was. (116)

Above all, however, Caesar had successfully GALVANIZED one gritty, single-minded enemy in particular: Cato. (116)

Caesar, [Cato] said, was simply doing as he pleased: illegally INSTIGATING wars with independent tribes not subject to Rome. (118)

However, it would take an even more CATACLYSMIC event before the conservatives actively wooed the man whom they had long feared and suspected. (124)

To QUELL the emergency gripping Rome and restore order, the alarmed senators turned for help to the only man who was able to summon the necessary authority and manpower. (125)

It was contrary to their closely held belief in equality among the Roman elite, their belief that power was CIRCUMSCRIBED by annual elections. (125)

Senators and knights who were in debt, as well as slaves and freedmen who were accused of crimes, all took advantage of Caesar’s LARGESSE. (132)

But just as effective was Caesar’s clever campaign of spin. Its slogan was ‘CLEMENCY.’ (139)

But as Caesar waged his BLITZKRIEG without significant opposition, they quickly realized that they had hopelessly misread the majority view. (140)

A plague of quarreling and RECRIMINATION broke out in the senatorial faction, infecting even the mind of their champion. (141)

Caesar did everything to maintain a SEMBLANCE of legitimate government. (145)

DISTRAUGHT at his first defeat in years, Caesar came to a tough realization. (147)

All the senators seemed to care about, came his ACERBIC rebuke, was money and whether they missed the fig season in Tusculum. (148)

The other piled in, FRENETICALLY pulling at their togas to release the weapons in their folds. (153)

So too, however, would [Augustus’s] capacity for cruelty, his ASSIDUOUS ability to do whatever it took to seal power. (154)
ROME UNIT 3 – JULIUS CAESAR and THE FALL OF THE REPUBLIC

IN CLASS: Saturday 2/11

**Rome: Power & Glory – Episode 2: Legions of Conquest (21:00-26:40)**

Growth of Roman Empire

Impact of War on Rome

Gaius Marius – professional army

Biggest Change in Military Service

Loyalty of Soldiers

Lucius Cornelius Sulla – affection of soldiers

Sulla’s March on Rome

**Rome: Power & Glory – Episode 3: The Seduction of Power (0:00-4:00)**

Lucius Cornelius Sulla – March on Rome

Bloodbath in Rome (proscriptions)

**Rome: Power & Glory – Episode 2: Legions of Conquest (26:40-35:00)**

Caesar’s path to power - Governor of Gaul

Caesar’s conquest of Gaul

Caesar’s talents

Vercingetorix

Pompey

Rubicon

Civil War
Due: Monday 2/13  

Caesar & Popular Politics (AR 101-108)

Caesar as both “Liberator” & Dictator

Conflicting definitions of Liberty

Dignity – center of the ideological debate

Choice facing ambitious Romans

Conservatives – goals & definition of liberty

Populists – goals & definition of liberty

Plebeian Assembly

Prevalence of bribery

Military commands as “flashpoint issue”

Gaius Marius

The Social War - consequences

Sulla’s march on Rome

Sulla’s proscription lists

Sulla’s legislation

Pompey’s early career

Pompey’s consulship
Appian: Sulla - Rome’s First Dictatorship (RJ 43-45)

Sulla seizes power in Rome after a civil war and rewrites the constitution. Sulla rules as an unelected king who engineered his own selection as dictator for an unlimited term. Sulla weakens the office of tribune and increases the size of the Senate. He frees 10,000 slaves and enlists them in his own army. Sulla then holds the consulship along with the dictatorship. Sulla resigned from power the following year.

How does Appian describe the reaction of the people to Sulla’s seizure of power?

What “pretence” or trickery did Sulla use to get named as dictator?

How did Sulla's dictatorship differ from that of Cincinnatus?

How does Appian view the “elections” that Sulla held and won?

What “show” did Sulla make about observing the traditional constitution?

What did Sulla do to “enfeeble” the tribunate?

How did Sulla benefit from adding to the number of senators and citizens?

Sallust – Roman Decline (RJ 46-47)

Rome reached a peak of strength through hard work and just dealings, but then went into moral decline after the conquest of Carthage. The dictator Sulla rules unjustly, and his troops show no restraint. Wealth corrupts Rome.

What impact did “avarice,” the “growing love of money” have on Rome?

What impact did “ambition,” the “lust for power” have on Rome?

What distinction does Sallust draw between avarice and ambition?

What happened when “wealth came to be a mark of distinction” in Rome?
Due: Wednesday, 2/15  
Pompey, Caesar and Cato (AR 108-116)

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<td>Cato’s continued attempts to stop Caesar</td>
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<td>Pompey’s marriage to Julia</td>
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Due: Friday, 2/17

The Balance of Power (AR 117-126)

Roman fear of Gaul

Caesar’s lack of authority to wage war

Migration of the Helvetii

Cato’s criticism of Caesar

Caesar’s intentions in Gaul

Bridge across the Rhine

*Dignitas*

Invasion of Britain

Effect of Caesar’s ambition

Caesar’s gifts to the Roman people

Caesar’s support for his troops

Renewal of the Triumvirate – consulship of Pompey & Crassus

Fatal flaw in Pompey’s character

Murder of Clodius

Offer of sole consulship to Pompey

Pompey’s desire for acceptance
Due: Monday, 2/20

Alesia (AR 126-131)

Vercingetorix as leader of Gallic rebellion

Caesar’s respect for Vercingetorix

Siege of Alesia

Vercingetorix’s “solution” to the siege

Caesar’s ruthlessness

Battle of Alesia – Caesar’s tactics

Total death toll in conquest of Gaul

Caesar’s use of his reserves

Results of the conquest of Gaul
Caesar’s generosity to the Roman people

Caesar’s central political principle

The “burning question” in Rome

Caesar’s candidacy for consulship

Beliefs of the Caesareans

Beliefs of the Catonians

Caesar’s offer of Octavia

Pompey’s marriage to Cornelia

Pompey’s alliance with Cato

Pompey’s overconfidence

Caesar’s letter to the Senate in 49

Response of Lentulus and Metellus Scipio

Caesar’s continued attempts at compromise

Inevitability of Civil War

Expulsion of Mark Antony

Crossing of the Rubicon - “The die is cast”
Caesar’s “clemency”

Panic in Rome

Pompey’s plan to abandon Rome

Tactical retreat

Brundisium

Pompey’s escape to Greece

Caesar’s entry to Rome

Caesar’s meeting with the Senate

Caesar’s “illegal” actions

Fork in the road for the Republic

Caesar’s difficult position in Greece

Pompey’s strategy of delay and initial victory at Dyrrachium

Pompey’s one critical weakness

Pompey’s quarrel with the senators

Caesar’s military genius at Pharsalus

Caesar’s victory at Pharsalus – consequences:
ROME UNIT 3 – JULIUS CAESAR and THE FALL OF THE REPUBLIC

Due: Saturday, 2/25

Epilogue (AR 151-154)

Caesar’s pardons for Pompeians

Caesar’s consulships

Caesar’s dictatorships

Caesar’s legislation

Rejection of kingship

Acceptance of deification

Caesar’s concern for his dignity

Assassination of Caesar

Brutus

Caesar’s perception of the future
ESSAY TOPIC: “CWRA” Critical Thinking & Persuasive Writing Exercise

The Situation:

It is early on the morning of the Ides of March. You are Cicero. You know the thoughts and positions of Caesar, Antony, Brutus, and Cassius as well as the ins and outs of Roman history, and you have the best interests of Rome at heart. You have just learned of the conspiracy developing against Caesar.

The Task:

You must hastily write a letter to Brutus either urging him forward in the plot or stopping him short before he takes the fateful step. The stakes are high — advancing the plot puts your life at risk at the hand of Antony, while cutting it off might make you a target of Cassius and other determined conspirators.

The key is that “Cicero” must persuade Brutus to take one action or the other. (Persuasion on the basis of multiple and often conflicting items of evidence is at the heart of this task.)

The Background:

We can assume that you know:
* The long struggle between conservatives and populists going back to the Gracchi, Marius, and Sulla
* Caesar and Pompey’s record together in the First Triumvirate and Caesar’s consulship
* Caesar’s record throughout the Gallic Wars
* Cato’s effort to prosecute Caesar for crimes as consul and as commander in Gaul
* The conflict between Caesar and Pompey on the eve of the Civil War
* Caesar’s conduct of the Civil War
* Caesar’s policy of clemency for his opponents (including Cicero & Brutus) after the Civil War
* Cato’s decision to commit suicide rather than live under Caesar’s rule
* Caesar’s conduct as dictator in Rome

You are also privy to all that Shakespeare will later dramatize:
* Cassius’ efforts to manipulate Brutus, including the generation of “fake news”
* Casca’s interpretation of Caesar’s refusal to accept the crown from Antony
* Brutus’ own reasoning as he gets drawn into the conspiracy (“lest he may, prevent”)
* The contents of Caesar’s will, including the gifts to the people
* Antony’s determination to defend Caesar, whether dead or alive

The Sources:

The sources for this “letter” will be Shakespeare, the scenes we’ve viewed from HBO Rome, and now the Baker chapter on Caesar — the last, of course, builds on his argument about Tiberius Gracchus and the dispute between the conservatives and populists.

Citations:

You will use ENDNOTES to cite the sources on which you base your advice to Caesar. (Use the “References” tab in Word – we will go over this in class.)

Length: 800-1000 words

Due Date: The end of your block class on Wednesday, March 1, or Thursday, March 2.

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