

What truly makes a hero tragic? Caesar proclaims "[et] tu, Brute?" (III.i.45) to Brutus as he dies after being stabbed by his once loyal friend. The tragedy of *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare begs the audience to question the true tragic hero of the play: Brutus, who embodies characteristics of a noble Roman, or Caesar, who takes a profound responsibility caring for the Roman plebians. As various characters attempt to manipulate Brutus and Caesar, resulting in both of their deaths, neither man accomplishes their main goal: to help the Roman people. [Insert Thesis Here]

- 1. Begin with an attention getter. Ex. Rhetorical Question, a quote, a wise statement, etc.**
- 2. A short, concise summary of the play**
- 3. Avoid "to be" verbs (has, was, were, am, are, is). Use three or less "to be" verbs in a paragraph.**
- 4. No "you," "I," or "me." No "we" or "us."**
- 5. The thesis is always the last sentence in the introductory paragraph.**

How can a hero be tragic? The play *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare truly exemplifies to the point two heroes dying in a tragedy. Yet, readers find it hard to tell who holds the sad title of tragic hero. Caesar, the king of the Romans who does not seem to be a hero until readers learn of his will by his friend, Antony, or Brutus, a noble Roman who thinks truly for "the good of Rome" (IV.ii.43). Throughout this interesting and slow-paced play, Brutus maintains the qualities of the tragic hero because a, b, c.

- Jack DeBartolo

Walking under ladders, seeing a black cat, the number 13 or opening an umbrella are all actions/ideas that are known to be bad omens in society today. People have become superstitious of such things. Although in some case, superstitions may just be an instinct. Humans and animals alike share this trait. It allows for both to make vital choices throughout the day. In the tragedy *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare, multiple characters are bombarded by superstitions that taint their actions and cause them to make decisions that negatively affect themselves and those around them. Suppose if they had listened to their superstitious ideas? Would the outcome be different? Caesar, Brutus, and Cassius all could have significantly changed their lives if they had considered these indications.

- Sarah Zickert

"His life was gentle and the elements are mixed in him that nature might stand up and say to all the world 'this is a man'" (Act V.v. 5). A tragic hero must have an inner conflict leading to a flaw in judgment or character. Antony speaks these words as he reflects on Brutus' tragic life. Although a tragic hero has a flaw, society loves them while alive and dearly misses them when dead. In the play *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare, Brutus truly embodies the character of a tragic hero due to his flaw of being easily manipulated, his appealing leadership qualities, and how he truly died resulting from his desire to always work for the good of Rome.

- Amanda Esczuk

