

Example

Center cover page:



Vertically

AND

Horizontally



**(be creative—such as—
The Death that Led to an Empire)**



Your Title

Your Name



Mrs. Ingles

AP World History Period ____

Date it is due

Example

The Death that Led to an Empire

Creative
title

Contextualization

Rome was ruled by a republican style government from 507 BCE to 27 BCE in which the executive office was governed by two consuls who were elected annually instead of a monarch. The most influential institution of the Republic was the Senate which was composed of senior statesmen and former government officials who served as advisors to the consuls and this body grew in power ("Roman Republic"). In the late 1st century BCE, a powerful patrician named Julius Caesar increasingly gained influence, which caused many senators to fear that he would become king and end the republic. Due to this fear, a group of senators killed Caesar in the Roman senate. The assassination of Julius Caesar was a massive shift in history because it led to the civil war against the conspirators and brought an end to the Roman Republic and started the imperial age. Yet, the death of Caesar in some ways had a minor impact on the government since a semblance of the republic remained with the Senate still in power, although limited.

Thesis
statement

1st point in
thesis

The death of Caesar marked a major turning point because it started a civil war against the conspirators (senators). Initially after the 60 senators killed Caesar, the majority of the senate decided to pardon them and attempted a compromise on all sides. Yet they underestimated how the public would respond as well as how strong Caesar's allies were. The public sided against those senators, which caused Caesar's nephew and heir Octavian to led Rome into a civil war against the conspirators ("The Assassination of Julius Caesar"). Octavian later wrote, "I drove the men who killed my father [Caesar had adopted him] into exile with a legal order, punishing their crime, and afterwards, when they waged war on the state, I conquered them in two battles" (qtd. in Augustus). In the end, the civil war lasted three years and ended with the conspirators against Julius Caesar losing the war ("The Assassination of Julius Caesar"). This brought in a

cite the
source

new era for Rome and was a key turning point in the realm of Roman politics.

**2nd point
in thesis**

The end of the Roman Republic and the birth of the empire signified how the assassination of Caesar was major turning point. Historians note that the Roman Empire began in approximately 27 BCE under the leadership of the first emperor, Augustus Caesar (Octavian) (“Roman Empire”). Due to the chaos left behind by the assassination of Julius Caesar and civil war, Augustus led massive overhaul of the Roman government with the aim of establishing a strong sense of law and order and even helped to usher in an era known as Pax Romana (Roman peace), a period of almost 200 years of peace. During the Roman Empire, the emperor ruled in an autocratic manner with him being the central figure in politics (“Roman Empire”). Augustus

**Primary
Source
Quote**

wrote, “Twice I triumphed with an ovation, and three times I enjoyed a curule [high ranking Roman magistrate] triumph and twenty one times I was named emperor” (qtd. in Augustus). In this document he was boasting about the power he attained during this period. Augustus had these words printed in *the Deeds of the Devine Augustus* on 2 bronze columns, which he had set up in Rome. These were then replicated and posted throughout the empire with the purpose of acting as propaganda in favor of his rule and to influence the people to support the new empire. Since this documents were written by Augustus himself, he tended to gloss over the negative events of this rule and focus on the positive elements. The emperor took absolute authority over the consul (chief magistrate) and over the pontifex maximus (high priest). He also had complete control of governing the provinces and in the later period of the empire was in full authority of lawmaking (“Roman Empire”). By the second century the emperor’s decrees carried the full weight of law (Bunson 304).

**How to cite
primary
source**

**1st word on
works cited**

**Page # (if
there is one)**

**3rd point in
thesis—
opposing
argument**

Even though the death of Caesar did lead to the rise of the empire, it can still be considered a minor turning point because a semblance of the republic remained with the Senate

still in power during the empire. The Senate's power was already fading when Julius Caesar was alive due to increasing size of the territory the Republic controlled. Their power was also threatened by powerful generals who had command of the Roman legion ("Augustus"). Once Augustus officially took power after the civil war, he was careful to ensure that certain aspects of the republic remained such as the senate, yet its power had waned considerably and was now just a tool that the emperor had control over (Bunson 495). Yet it is important to note that in 27 BCE Octavian told the Senate that he was returning their control and rule over the Roman people and territory. The Senate responded by giving him the title Augustus, meaning revered (Bunson 60). Even Augustus himself said, "When I was consul the fifth time (29 BC), I increased the number of patricians by order of the people and senate" thus noting that he kept the senate in tact (qtd. in Augustus). As the empire waned on, the Senate did gradually lose some of their power. The Roman Senate retained administration of provinces not controlled by the emperor and remained in control of the state treasury, yet many of their duties were taken from them by later emperors (Bunson 495). Toward the end of the Roman Empire emperors expanded the size of the Senate, and Emperor Constantine even created a new senate that was "made the equal of Rome in 359 C.E. It too had no real sway in the workings of either empire, East or West" (Bunson 496). Strangely enough the Senate actually outlived the empire itself. When Rome fell in 476 C.E., the Germanic leader who took over kept the Senate. There were still mentions the Senate in 603 C.E. (Bunson 496). This helps support the idea that the empire still did retain some of the basic ideals of the Republic long after the death of Julius Caesar.

Conclusion

As a whole, Caesar's very public assassination did mark an important turning point in Roman history as the civil war broke out within the territory, which led to the development of a new executive office in the Roman government. Yet, the Senate still

remained in its place politically even though its influence was less significant than it had been. The Senate's legacy lived on even after the empire collapsed in 476 C.E. and had a vast impact on democratic governments of present era.

Remember:
All sources on your Works
Cited MUST be used!

Works Cited

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Hanging
Indent:
Indent if
longer
than 1 line

