

## Improving Grades in Gathman’s Sophomore English

*Why to Read this Document:* During the third quarter we completed work related to each standard. The following will show what you need to do to show mastery of these standards in order to improve your current grade. This will list the work that you need to complete as well as the grade in the gradebook it will replace/improve. Necessary materials will be posted in TEAMS and on [www.gathman.weebly.com](http://www.gathman.weebly.com).

*Remembering our Syllabus:* This course expands the individual basic language arts skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening. Primary emphasis is placed on gaining command of skills to employ in written and oral communication and on gaining an understanding of reading as literature.

*William Shakespeare’s Julius Caesar:* Like *Macbeth*, *Julius Caesar* is one of Shakespeare’s most famous tragedies. This historical play recounts the story of the Roman general turned dictator Julius Caesar. It explores the ideas of friendship, honor, and loyalty. Pay attention to the limits and focus of these loyalties.

In order to complete this work you will need to watch and/or read *Julius Caesar* – doing both will be most beneficial. The links are as follows:

[Watch Julius Caesar on YouTube](#) – [Read the play with modern language](#)

### ***Julius Caesar Analytical Essay***

Reading and Writing – Replaces *Macbeth* Essay Test

After reading/watching *Julius Caesar*, write a five-paragraph essay that creates a complete answer to the following prompt:

Discuss Brutus’ character. Is he honorable or dishonorable? A hero or a villain?

Clearly explain your answer while considering other views and possible evidence. Your essay needs to share evidence from the play. Include a minimum three direct quotes cited using the following version of MLA format: “Quote” (Shakespeare act.scene).

### ***Julius Caesar Creative Writing Piece***

Writing, Vocabulary – Replaces Omaha’s Invisible Cities Final Draft

Write two letters from Roman citizens that could help Cassius in his plan to stop Caesar, like those he forged at the end of Act I, Scene ii. Use what you know about the characters to help guide your words. Remember that Cassius’ goal was to flatter Brutus and trick him into believing the conspiracy was thought of positively throughout Rome. Each letter should meet the following requirements:

Minimum one-half page, Double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, English (not Latin/Italian)

### ***Julius Caesar Creative Project***

Reading Comprehension – Replaces *Old Man and the Sea* Illustrated Words

Create a movie poster for your upcoming film adaptation of the play. You will need to choose current actors and actresses for each of the following main characters: Caesar, Brutus, Antony, Cassius, and Calpurnia. This can be done by hand and/or digitally.

You will also need 3-5 sentences explaining your choices for the actor/actress. These explanations will need to relate an understanding of the character in the play and their individual characteristics. For example: Tom Holland is Brutus because he helped Darth Vader in *Frozen II* just like Brutus... etc.