***Julius Caesar* In-class Essay Assignment**

**ENG2D3**

**Task**: Write a 4 paragraph argumentative essay on ONE of the topics below. If you would like to combine some topics, that’s acceptable as well.

In order to effectively substantiate your ideas, you must incorporate **textual evidence**. Please review the handout, **“Quoting Shakespeare”** to assist you in integrating quotations. You can access this handout in your JC folder available on the Earl Haig website.

**Topics for exploration:**

Honour and nobility: Who is the noblest Roman of them all?

What does it mean to be honourable?

What does the play say/teach about idealism or honour?

Friendship: What does the play say/teach about friendship?

To what extent does *Julius Caesar* exemplify Brophy’s understanding of friendship?

Friendship: “a stance imbued with sympathy, interest and excitement directed at another despite all that otherwise shows we are flawed and dangerous creatures.” Kevin John Brophy

Friendship is the foundation upon which the play is built; that is: *Julius Caesar* is not a political play, but a play on the value of friendship. To what extent is this true?

\*Gender studies and queer theory\*: How does *Julius Caesar* challenge heteronormativity?

What purpose/role do Calpurnia or Portia play?

How do the two female leads challenge patriarchy?

\*Gender studies and Queer theory\* explore issues of sexuality, power, and marginalized populations in literature and culture. A primary concern in gender studies and queer theory is the manner in which gender and sexuality is explored and discussed (Owl at Perdue).

**Structure:** Short intro (4-6 sentences each)

Two body paragraphs

* Each par. should have a topic sentence, evidence, explanation of evidence, and a concluding sentence.

Short intro (4-6 sentences each)

**PERMITTED:** on the day you write, you are allowed ONE 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper with quotations on it. Don’t copy from the internet: it will show and your grade will reflect it. Think about what you want to argue and find 3-6 strong quotations you can use to support your claim.

**Also permitted**: “Quoting Shakespeare”