

# Julius Caesar Character Analysis Essay

To help review and fully analyze the characters from this play, let's write a five paragraph essay focusing on how one of the characters is fully developed through other characters and events that occur over the course of this text. You must focus on ONE major trait illustrated by this ONE character. Follow the prewriting steps below and be sure to complete all steps to ensure success!

1. Character: Select ONE and circle your selection (select the one you fell most comfortable with)

- Antony

- Brutus

**Portia - example**

- Julius Caesar

- Cassius

2. Trait: Select ONE main trait (see list) **Strong but cracks**

3. Brainstorm: Complete the chart below using specifics from the text. (Note: This information is the supporting details for the body paragraphs.)

Plot Event	Quote from character/About character that explains how character shows trait
When P. talks to B. about the men coming at 3 am on March 15, she wants to know what's bothering him	-“Giving myself a voluntary wound / Here, in the thigh” (II.1.323-324). -Shows that she is brave and strong to harm herself if B. won't be honest with her
When P. sends Lucius to the Capitol to find what B. is doing	-“I have a man's mind, but a woman's might” (II.4.9). -Shows that she is worried about her husband's well-being, and sends her servant since she is not allowed to be there
When B. shares with Cassius about P's suicide	-“Impatient of my absence, / And grief that young Octavius with Mark Antony / Have made themselves so strong...with this she fell distract,/ And (her attendants absent) swallowed fire” (IV.3.175-179). -Shows that she cannot handle life without B. and with the Roman citizens (under Antony's permission) wanting to kill her husband, she could not take the pain any more

#### 4. Outline of Five Paragraph Essay

##### Introduction (five to seven sentences)

Hook: A general statement about character trait

The definition of strong means... OR Some may define strong as being...

Background information A: What does character trait mean? Association people think of.

Being a strong woman, one may think of her as bossy.

Background information B: Connect this trait to character and the play *Julius Caesar* with an overview. Include facts about character.

In *Julius Caesar*, Portia is a strong woman who comes from a well-known Roman family. She is married to Brutus, who is involved in the assassination of Caesar. When she finds out about her husband's part in killing of their ruler, she cracks under the pressure of fearing for Brutus' safety.

Thesis: Subject (character) + opinion (trait) + why (why this trait relates to the character)

Portia demonstrates that she is a strong woman, but in fact, she breaks under pressure when she faces with the reality of her husband's actions.

##### First Body Point (seven to 10 sentences)

Topic sentence: What is first plot event that supports character's trait?

When Brutus becomes involved in the plot to kill Caesar, Portia demands to know what is going on.

Context of quote: What is going on in the play when this event occurs?

Very early the morning of March 15, several men wearing cloaks come to their house to see Brutus. After they leave, Portia questions her husband as to what they are doing there. She also asks Brutus to explain why he hasn't been eating, sleeping, and acting as his usual self. Brutus does not answer her repeated questions, but he does insist that he will tell her eventually.

Introduction of quote: Who is stating the quote? To whom? When?

Upset that her husband refuses to share his thoughts, that she threatens to harm herself.

State quote: State quote accurately from the play, with proper format for in-text citations at end of sentence before period: (I.1.23-24) (Act.Scene.Lines)

She states, "Giving myself a voluntary wound / Here, in the thigh" (II.1.323-324).

Explain detail: **How** does this quote explain the character and trait? What does character do in this situation?

Portia argues with Brutus in that she has a right to know what is going on since she is his wife and not his harlot. She continues to press him by stating that they should never keep secrets in their marriage. Since she feels he won't give into her demands, she threatens to harm herself, hoping that action would convince him to reveal what's troubling him.

Analyze detail: **Why** does this quote explain the character and trait? Why does the character respond in this manner?

By feeling the need to stab herself, Portia displays that she is a strong woman who wants to prove her worth to her husband, whom she loves dearly. She shows that she would take the pain to demonstrate her love for Brutus, and that she is his faithful wife. As a result of her threat, she hopes Brutus understands and acknowledges her concerns. She wants him to know she supports him regardless of the trouble he has gotten himself into.

Wrap-up point of paragraph: Give a summary of the analysis. Although Portia threatens to harm herself, she illustrates she is a strong woman who would do anything to protect her husband.

### **Second Body Point (seven to 10 sentences)**

Topic sentence: What is first plot event that supports character's trait?

Context of quote: What is going on in the play when this event occurs?

Introduction of quote: Who is stating the quote? To whom? When?

State quote: State quote accurately from the play, with proper format for in-text citations at end of sentence before period: (I.I.23-24) (Act.Scene.Lines)

Explain detail: **How** does this quote explain the character and trait? What does character do in this situation?

Analyze detail: **Why** does this quote explain the character and trait? Why does the character respond in this manner?

Wrap-up point of paragraph: Give a summary of the analysis.

### **Third Body Point (seven to 10 sentences)**

Topic sentence: What is first plot event that supports character's trait?

Context of quote: What is going on in the play when this event occurs?

Introduction of quote: Who is stating the quote? To whom? When?

State quote: State quote accurately from the play, with proper format for in-text citations at end of sentence before period: (I.I.23-24) (Act.Scene.Lines)

Explain detail: **How** does this quote explain the character and trait? What does character do in this situation?

Analyze detail: **Why** does this quote explain the character and trait? Why does the character respond in this manner?

Wrap-up point of paragraph: Give a summary of the analysis.

## Conclusion (five sentences)

Rephrase thesis: Rewrite the last sentence of introduction.

Even though Portia demonstrates that she is a strong woman, as an outcome of her husband's decision to kill Caesar, she breaks down and commits suicide.

Restate three examples used in body paragraphs that support character's trait.

-She tries to find out why Brutus acts odd

-She attempts to stop Brutus from assassinating Caesar by sending her servant to the Senate house

-She cannot accept the fact that she may lose her husband to Antony and Octavius, so she swallows fire

Answer: So what? What does this character trait say about people in general?

Even if people act strong, everyone has a weakness. Portia's weakness is that she cares too much for her husband.

Complete the essay to complement the hook: Add on to the first sentence of this essay to explain what a reader should learn from this analysis of this character.

Before one concludes that a person is strong and cannot be broken, he or she should consider a person's weakness.