

JULIUS CAESAR—SPEECH #1

Read Brutus’s speech from Act 3, Scene 2 of William Shakespeare’s *Julius Caesar*. Look for different modes of persuasion in the language. Highlight examples. Wherever you highlight, notate which mode of persuasion the highlighted text represents and why.

Brutus

Be patient till the last.

Romans, countrymen, and lovers, hear me for my cause,

and be silent, that you may hear. Believe me for mine

honor, and have respect to mine honor, that you may

believe. Censure me in your wisdom, and awake your

senses, that you may the better judge. If there be any in

this assembly, any dear friend of Caesar’s, to him I say

that Brutus’ love to Caesar was no less than his. If then

that friend demand why Brutus rose against Caesar, this

is my answer: not that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved

Rome more. Had you rather Caesar were living, and die

all slaves, than that Caesar were dead, to live all free men?

As Caesar loved me, I weep for him; as he was fortunate,

I rejoice at it; as he was valiant, I honor him; but as he

was ambitious, I slew him. There is tears for his love; joy for his fortune; honor for his valor; and death for his ambition. Who is here so base that would be a bondman? If any, speak, for him have I offended. Who is here so rude That would not be a Roman? If any, speak, for him have I offended. Who is here so vile that will not love his country? If any, speak, for him have I offended. I pause for a reply.

All

None, Brutus, none.

Brutus

Then none have I offended. I have done no more to Caesar than you shall do to Brutus. The question of his death is enrolled in the Capitol; his glory not extenuated, wherein he was worthy; nor his offenses enforced, for which he suffered death.
[Enter Antony and others, with Caesar's body.]
Here comes his body, mourned by Mark Antony, who, though he had no hand in his death, shall receive the

benefit of his dying, a place in the
commonwealth, as
which of you shall not? With this I depart –
that, as I slew
my best lover for the good of Rome, I have
the same
dagger for myself, when it shall please my
country to need
my death.
[...]
Good countrymen, let me depart alone,
And, for my sake, stay here with Antony.
Do grace to Caesar's corpse, and grace his
speech
Tending to Caesar's glories, which Mark
Antony,
By our permission, is allowed to make.
I do entreat you not a man depart,
Save I alone, till Antony have spoke.