

ELA 6th hour

English

Mr. Lehman

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Swaying the People of Rome

After the murder of Julius Caesar both Brutus and Antony gave the speech in front of the Senate. Brutus could hardly find the reasons for justification this butchery. The words of Antony, that came right from his heart, but were carefully chosen, convinced commoners that he was telling the truth. He succeeded, because he proved his credibility, expressed his pathos and was confident in his logos.

Antony effectively used ethos when he showed his respect by calling conspirators “the honorable men”. He said, “Here, with the permission of Brutus and the rest (For Brutus is an honorable man; So are they all, all honorable men), I come to speak in Caesar's funeral.” (Julius Caesar 3.2). His credibility is in the friendship with Caesar and loyalty to Rome, as citizen and soldier. If we look at Brutus's speech, we may notice that in his request to listen to him, he appears to be conceited: “Believe me because of my honor, and respect my honor.... Judge me in your wisdom”. Well, nobody likes vanity, especially Roman commoners.

Antony was more potent in using pathos than Brutus, because he was fairly embarrassed about Caesar's death and literally mad about his inability to change the circumstances. Moreover,

he was scared of Rome's future! In his opinion, Caesar was Rome's hope and saviour."Right at the bottom of Pompey's statue great Caesar fell.O,what a fall that was,my countryman!Then I, and you,and all of me fell down,while bloody treason grew over us.O, now you weep,and I can feel that you feel the beginning of pity..." (Julius Caesar 3.2.). In his cry, he makes the crowd to think very carefully about the events and realize the fact that betrayers are evil people that aren't worth a dirt on Caesar's shoes."O judgment, you have run away to dump animals, and men have lost their intelligence. Bear with me, My heart is in the coffin with Caesar, And I must pause until it comes back to me" (Julius Caesar 3.2.).

The strongest part of Antony's speech was logos. He provided facts and reasons for Julius Caesar's innocence. This is evident when he says, "He has brought many captives to Rome, whose ransoms filled the government treasury. Did this seem ambitious in Caesar? Whenever the poor have cried, Caesar has wept; Ambition should be made of sterner stuff. But Brutus says he was ambitious; And Brutus is an honorable man. You all saw that on the Lupercal I offered him a kingly crown 3 times.Was this ambition?"(Julius Caesar 3.2)The key point of his logos, without a doubt, was announcing the Caesar's will. Combining pathos and logos was the most efficient decision in order to get the right emotion and make the crowd do what you want. "Why, friends, you don't know what you are leaving to do. How was Caesar deserved so much of your love? Alas, you don't know! Then I have to tell you..."(Julius Caesar 3.2). In comparison to Antony, Brutus did not provide any evidence at all and that was his main mistake. He couldn't prove his claims,that's why people thought he was a liar

Brutus was not persuasive in his attempts to blame Caesar in tyranny. "Which of you is so uncivilised that you would prefer to be a slave? Would you rather Caesar were living, and you all die slaves, than that Caesar were dead, and you all live as freemen?" (Julius Caesar 3.2) As you see, there is no explanation how Caesar was going to make them slaves. Instead, he pretends that Rome is the sense of his life. "If that friend then demands to know why Brutus turned against Caesar, this is my answer. Not because I cared for Caesar less, but because I loved Rome more" (Julius Caesar 3.2) However, by killing Julius Caesar, who was loved by billions and who knew what Rome needed the most, he appears being jealous to his popularity, rather than caring about Rome.

Finally, Brutus could persuade the publicity in his innocence, if he prepared his speech and thought about any valuable reasons Caesar had to be killed. He could collect the evidence or at least fake it. He could kill Antony or don't let him talk. Unfortunately for him, he was not a wise politician, whilst his opponent was a bit faster and sneakier. Antony was smart enough to survive and to trick the conspirators. He was determined and brave enough to risk his life and to say the truth. Even though he had mixed feelings about the traitors, he efficiently combined pathos and logos and seemed credible enough in his ethos to gain favors of Romans. In their eyes, Antony is the only deserving candidate for ruling the country after Caesar's death: He is an honorable man, a determined and honest politician, loyal to Rome and willing to prevent the unrest in the Empire.

Works Cited

William Shakespeare. The Tragedy of Julius Caesar. Script, August 2000.