



ROMAN SENATE

Background Guide



Agenda:

“Deliberating upon Rome’s future in light of the assassination of the Dictator Perpetuo, Julius Caesar.”



Table of Contents

Pg. No.

Cover Page.....	01
Table of Contents.....	02
Letter from the Executive Board.....	03
Introduction	04
Timeline.....	05
Julius Caesar's Rise and Assassination	06
The Aftermath and Political Chaos	06
The Senatorial Proceedings	07
Analysis of Rome.....	11
Stances of Senators and Political Actors	15
Position Paper Submission Guidelines	23
QARMAs.....	25
Conclusion.....	28
Bibliography.....	28



Freeze Date:
16th March, 44 B.C.E.

Agenda: “Deliberating upon Rome’s future in light of the assassination of the Dictator Perpetuo, Julius Caesar.”



Letter From The EB

Dear Senators,

Welcome to the eleventh edition of WELMUN, where the Executive Board of the Roman Senate Committee welcomes you inside the corridors of the ancient Republic.

The weight of the empire is borne by Roman senators. It is now up to you to decide the Republic's future; your choices, coalitions, and treachery will influence not only Rome but the entire world. Rome is at a crossroads after the killing of Gaius Julius Caesar, divided between the hope of a revived Republic and the threat of a new tyranny.

One of history's most turbulent and significant crisis is on this year's schedule:

Agenda: Deliberating upon Rome's future in light of the assassination of the Dictator Perpetuo, Julius Caesar.

You will face incredibly complicated moral and political conundrums, such as whether Caesar's reforms should be reversed or maintained. Do we honor the assassins as patriots or condemn them as traitors? Will Rome have to submit to a strongman once more, or will the Senate bring order back?

This committee goes beyond merely reenacting the past. It is a dynamic crisis simulation that combines strategy, discussion, diplomacy, and deceit. Anticipate bribery, betrayals, senatorial decrees, backroom bargains, and unexpected turns. In order to gain power in this chamber, one must act boldly and carefully in addition to using words.

We implore each senator to thoroughly understand the background and personality of the people they serve. Recognize their goals, partnerships, and historical enmity. Your investigation and ingenuity will determine whether the Senate succeeds or fails.

However, we hope you take the time to enjoy the experience despite the weight of ancient politics and the gravity of war councils. WELMUN is a place of education, friendship, and enthusiasm. Enjoy the opportunity to bring history to life in a way that few people get to, create memories, and form friendships.

The Senate is waiting for your ambition and voice.

Please feel free to reach out to the Executive Board for any queries.

Looking forward to seeing you in session.

The Executive Board

Roman Senate

Shreyas Shah (Chairperson)	Tanveer Singh Madan (Vice Chairperson)	Adhyayan Gupta (Director)
Daksh Gupta (Director)	Agastya Gupta (Scribe)	Vihaan Goel (Scribe)

THE ROMAN SENATE

BACKGROUND GUIDE



1. Introduction

The year is 44 B.C.E., and the Roman Republic stands at the edge of political collapse. Julius Caesar—general, dictator, reformer—has been struck down by his own Senate, murdered on the Ides of March by a coalition of senators determined to halt what they saw as the end of the Republic. His assassination was meant to save Rome from dictatorship. Instead, it has thrown the city into chaos. With no clear plan for succession and Caesar’s sweeping reforms left half-finished, Rome now teeters between civil war and political rebirth.

Here is an illustration of the Roman Empire during the 44th B.C.E:



This crisis committee convenes on 16 March 44 B.C.E., a day after Caesar’s death. The senators gathered must address the immediate consequences of the assassination and Rome’s long-term future. Will the Republic be restored? Will a new Caesar rise? Or will the Republic collapse into bloodshed once more?

The committee is tasked with one core agenda:

“Deliberating upon Rome’s future in light of the assassination of the Dictator Perpetuo, Julius Caesar.”
But the real business—raw, urgent, and unscripted—is the pursuit and seizure of power.



2. Timeline of Key Events

100 B.C.E. Birth of Julius Caesar into the patrician Julian family.

85 B.C.E. Caesar becomes head of his family after his father's death.

82–79 B.C.E. Sulla's dictatorship; sets precedent for authoritarian rule. Caesar narrowly avoids execution.

69 B.C.E. Caesar becomes quaestor in Hispania, marking the beginning of his political career.

63 B.C.E. Caesar was elected Pontifex Maximus (chief priest).

60 B.C.E. Formation of the First Triumvirate: Caesar, Pompey, and Crassus.

59 B.C.E. Caesar elected consul; enacted populist reforms.

58–50 B.C.E. Caesar's Gallic Wars; expands Roman territory and gains military prestige.

53 B.C.E. Crassus dies at Carrhae; the First Triumvirate dissolves.

49 B.C.E. Caesar crosses the Rubicon, sparking civil war against Pompey and the senate.

48 B.C.E. Battle of Pharsalus: Caesar defeats Pompey, who flees to Egypt and is assassinated.

46 B.C.E. Caesar becomes dictator for ten years after victory in Africa.

45 B.C.E. Caesar defeats remaining Pompeians in Spain; becomes sole ruler of Rome.

44 B.C.E. February: Caesar appointed Dictator Perpetuo.

March 15 (Ides of March): Caesar is assassinated by a group of senators led by Brutus and Cassius.

March 16: Crisis committee convenes.



3. Julius Caesar's Assassination and Rise

Julius Caesar, born in 100 B.C.E. to the Julian gens, climbed the ranks of Roman politics through a blend of astute populism, military brilliance, and personal charm. He started his rise as an ally of the populares, identifying with Marius's legacy and fighting for the people. His early career involved spells as a military tribune, quaestor, and praetor. He finally won the consulship in 59 B.C.E. by forming an alliance called the First Triumvirate with Pompey and Crassus.

After his consulship, Caesar launched a campaign of conquest in Gaul, where he gained enormous military strength, wealth, and prestige over the course of nearly a decade. His *Commentaries on the Gallic War* made him a popular name. His increasing power concerned the Senate, especially Pompey, who had since allied himself with the optimates.

In 49 B.C.E., Caesar led the Rubicon invasion, announcing war against the power of the Senate—a risky venture that sparked the Roman Civil War. He triumphed over Pompey at Pharsalus and proceeded to clean up opposition around the Mediterranean. Caesar was returned to Rome as dictator perpetuo in 44 B.C.E., marking an end in all but name to the old system of checks and balances of the Republic.

Caesar's reforms involved refinancing debt, enlarging the Senate, initiating colonial resettlements, and standardising the calendar—the Julian Calendar. Yet his disregard for Republican customs, indulgence in divine honours, and concentration of uncontrolled power repelled much of the patrician elite. On 15 March, in a session of the Senate in the Theatre of Pompey, Caesar was stabbed 23 times by at least 60 conspirators. The deed, intended to restore the Republic, became the catalyst for additional chaos.

4. The Aftermath and Political Chaos

The conspirators, calling themselves Liberatores, expected to be greeted as saviours. Instead, their cause was met with silence, uncertainty, and fear. The Roman populace had grown to revere Caesar, and his death generated panic more than celebration.

Mark Antony, Caesar's loyal ally and serving consul, took immediate action. He secured Caesar's documents, treasury, and military assets. Antony struck a fragile deal with the



Liberatores: Caesar's laws would remain, and the assassins would receive amnesty. But in his famous funeral speech, Antony exposed Caesar's bloody toga and stirred the crowd into a frenzy, inciting riots in the Forum and forcing many conspirators to flee Rome.

Meanwhile, Gaius Octavius, Caesar's 18-year-old grandnephew and adopted son, was en route to Rome. Though young, Octavian carried Caesar's name and legacy—a potential rallying point for Caesarian loyalists. Others, like Marcus Aemilius Lepidus, Caesar's Master of Horse, seized strategic locations and began preparing for confrontation.

Without Caesar, Rome had no clear leadership, no legal precedent, and no unified Senate. Some sought to restore the Republic, others sought to claim power. The Senate itself was now a battlefield.

5. The Senate Committee's Role and Procedures

Mandate

This committee represents the extraordinary convocation of the Roman Senate in the aftermath of a cataclysmic political vacuum—the assassination of Dictator Perpetuo, Gaius Julius Caesar, in 44 B.C.E. With the state's legal framework in tatters and mobs in the Forum, the Senate now seizes absolute emergency authority to stabilize the Republic—or rebuild a new Rome altogether.

Historically, the Senate held constitutional supremacy in the Roman Republic, but Caesar's dictatorship had greatly eroded that power. With Caesar now dead and his succession unclear, the Senate temporarily reclaims its ancient role—not merely as a legislative body, but as the guardian of Rome's soul and sword.

This committee is more of a specialised crisis Committee. However, unlike typical General Assembly simulations that focus on policy debate, this committee functions more like the Security Council merged with a wartime cabinet, having powers over:-

- Military strategy
- Legal tribunals
- Diplomatic alliances
- Constitutional reformation
- Crisis-based actions (e.g. coups, betrayals, bribes, emergency powers)



Agenda

“Deliberating upon Rome’s future in light of the assassination of the Dictator Perpetuo, Julius Caesar.”

This agenda is intentionally broad yet explosive. It allows you to discuss:

- The legitimacy and consequences of Caesar’s assassination
- Power vacuums and potential leadership
- The restoration or destruction/chaos of the Roman Republic
- Possibilities of civil war or foreign invasion
- Senate’s survival or surrender to military domination
- Caesar’s reforms: repeal, continuation, or mutation

Much like an MUN crisis agenda, it is fluid and reactive—what begins as a discussion of political legitimacy may spiral into military conflict, emergency dictatorship, or full constitutional overhaul, depending on delegate actions.

Senatorial Proceedings

This simulation departs from traditional committee procedures and adopts a crisis-driven model, similar to MUN Crisis Committees but rooted in ancient Roman structure.

1. Senatus Consulta (Senatorial Decrees) — “Draft Resolutions”

Senators may present proposals as Senatus Consulta, which must be debated and voted upon. These could cover:

- Mobilisation of legions
- Governance of provinces



- National mourning for Caesar
- Emergency taxation
- Structural reforms to the Republic

Think of these as Draft Resolutions, except they may evolve rapidly with events. They are more executive decisions than symbolic policies.

2. Appointment of Temporary Magistrates, Commanders, or Governors

In the power vacuum, the Senate can appoint Provisional Consuls, Magister Equitum (Master of Horse), or even declare Dictatorship again (ironically).

These roles are strategic and can:

- Seize provinces
- Command legions
- Establish martial law
- Issue edicts with near-absolute power

Likewise, appointing a Special Envoy or Commander-in-Chief, but with far more direct power over the committee's fate.

3. Caesar's Reforms: Validate, Amend, or Abolish

The Senate may ratify, repeal, or alter Caesar's many laws and reforms:

- Land redistribution
- Grain subsidies

THE ROMAN SENATE

BACKGROUND GUIDE



- Citizenship grants to provinces
- Calendar reforms (Julian Calendar)
- Expansion of the Senate itself

Each decision will have political, economic, and social consequences, particularly as many senators benefited from or despised these reforms.

Similar to revising treaties, economic plans, or peace deals—but in a setting where one false move could ignite rebellion.

4. Form Alliances or Declare War

The Senate may:

- Declare war on rebels or rival claimants (e.g. Antony, Brutus, Octavian)
- Form diplomatic alliances with provinces, foreign kingdoms (e.g. Egypt), or legions.
- Approve military campaigns or naval blockades.

Comparable to UNSC declarations of war or coalition building, except Rome never needed international approval.

5. Crisis Mechanics: Backroom Deals, Bribery, Assassination, and Betrayal

Every senator here is a landed aristocrat, general, or political firebrand with personal ambition.

You can:

- Send secret notes/chits to bribe generals
- Forge letters from Caesar.
- Flip Legions' loyalty with gold



- Plot coups or frame assassinations

Similar to private directives in Crisis Committees, but with higher stakes and lasting consequences. Power, vengeance, or survival—anything is valid if you can justify it. Due to the large committee size, only the best of documentation shall be verified by the executive board and marked. Therefore, quality is of the utmost importance.

6. Analysis of Rome:

Political

Rome stands on the precipice of total institutional collapse. With Caesar's assassination, the Republic lost its central stabilising force, however controversial. The political order he built—based on personal loyalty, military domination, and popular appeal—died with him. The Senate, once the dominant governing body of the Republic, is now deeply fractured along ideological, personal, and military lines. While some senators champion a return to Republican norms, others seek to inherit Caesar's mantle of authority.

There is no agreed-upon mechanism of succession for a dictator perpetuo, a position that was never meant to exist under traditional Roman law. In the absence of constitutional clarity, political legitimacy is rapidly being redefined by force. The man who controls Rome's armies, treasury, and people will control its politics. This dangerous vacuum has already seen Mark Antony seize Caesar's will and funds, while young Octavian races toward Rome, calling himself Caesar's heir. Meanwhile, conspirators like Brutus and Cassius plead that they struck down a tyrant, not the state, yet lack the armed force to support their ideals. With military governors commanding legions across the provinces, Rome's political future could veer toward renewed civil war, a military dictatorship, or a triumvirate-style compromise—each possibility more unstable than the last. Here are the divisions of the legions depicted in a map:-

THE ROMAN SENATE

BACKGROUND GUIDE



Economic

The Roman economy is caught in a spiral of uncertainty following Caesar's death. His massive land redistribution programs, debt reforms, and grain subsidies—designed to appease veterans and urban plebs—have strained the public treasury. These policies had short-term political advantages, but they also destabilised elite landholdings and traditional sources of aristocratic wealth. With Caesar's assassination, many of these economic policies hung in limbo.

At stake is the control of the Republic's wealthiest provinces. Egypt, Africa Proconsularis, and Asia Minor are the breadbaskets and cash cows of the Roman world. Their governors hold immense economic sway, particularly if they choose to cut off grain shipments or divert tax revenues. The internal turmoil also threatens Rome's financial institutions. Publicani (tax contractors), large creditors, and estate owners are paralysed with indecision about whom to align with. Inflation, hoarding of coinage, and disrupted trade routes are imminent. Rome's economy is more than a matter of money—it is a battleground of patronage, class conflict, and provincial loyalty.



Social

Rome's social order is unravelling. The assassination of Caesar has not only ignited a political war, but a class war. The lower classes, including the vast urban plebs and Caesar's legionary veterans, saw him as a liberator who offered food, land, and security. His death, to them, is not just a political event—it is a betrayal. These classes have already rioted, and may do so again, especially if Caesar's promised land grants are not fulfilled.

Meanwhile, the patrician elite, long wary of Caesar's populist methods, are divided between those who supported the conspiracy and those who benefited from Caesar's patronage. Further complicating matters is the emergence of a new class of provincials and enfranchised elites from Gaul, Spain, and the East—men whom Caesar had elevated into the Roman political sphere. These newcomers threaten the traditional dominance of old Roman families. In short, Roman society is fragmenting across lines of class, origin, and political loyalty. The Senate must now decide whether to suppress this rising tide, attempt to integrate it, or risk full-scale rebellion from the very masses that once hailed Caesar as a god.

Technological

While not in a period of rapid innovation, Rome's technological infrastructure—especially its engineering—remains one of its greatest assets. Roads, bridges, aqueducts, and fortifications provide not just logistical and military advantages, but also symbols of control and civilisation. Whoever controls the roads controls the movement of troops, grain, and information. Weapon forges and supply chains, particularly those in Capua and the northern frontier, are critical to maintaining any campaign, whether defensive or offensive.

Public works are also potent tools of propaganda. Caesar understood this well—his construction of the Forum Iulium, temple dedications, and rebuilding programs were not only practical improvements but public declarations of authority and vision. In the wake of his death, senators who can fund and complete public works will gain influence with the populace and secure loyalty among key urban districts and guilds. Control over these logistical and symbolic networks is now a priority for any would-be ruler.



Environmental

The urban sprawl of Rome and its growing reliance on imports make it dangerously vulnerable to environmental instability. Grain is the city's lifeblood—much of it shipped from Egypt, Sicily, and Africa. If those provinces fall into enemy hands or rebel against the Senate, famine could sweep through the capital in weeks. Grain shortages were a recurring crisis during the late Republic, and Caesar had only barely managed to keep them in check through his centralisation of the grain dole.

Rome also suffers from urban crowding, pollution, and fire hazards. Disease is a constant risk in the densely packed insulae (tenement blocks), particularly during hot seasons. Furthermore, the destruction or blockage of aqueducts and sewers, whether through negligence or sabotage, could devastate whole districts. Environmental control is thus not just a matter of public health—it is a vector of political power. Whoever guarantees clean water and regular grain will be favoured by the people.

Legal

The Roman legal system, though steeped in tradition and precedent, finds itself in unprecedented waters after Caesar's assassination. The laws that once governed the Republic were largely subverted or overridden during Caesar's rule, especially through his use of emergency powers and the Senate's granting of near-unlimited authority. His designation as dictator perpetuo had no constitutional precedent. His death, therefore, has created a legal void, with no clear succession mechanism, no formal plan for transition, and no agreed-upon standard for interpreting his reforms.

The Senate now must grapple with the question of legitimacy. Are Caesar's edicts and appointments—many of which were issued without senatorial consultation—still binding? His will names Octavian as his adopted son and heir, but Roman inheritance law has never before dealt with a posthumous succession of political command. The legal ambiguity surrounding this issue is likely to spark further conflict. Additionally, the assassins claim they acted in defence of the Republic, but by Roman law, murder within a sacred senatorial session remains a crime. Do they now face prosecution, or have they reset the legal order altogether?



It is increasingly clear that legal authority in Rome will not rest solely on precedent, but on the capacity to enforce it. Emergency tribunals may be established, new laws may be invented, and constitutions may be rewritten. The Republic may either ossify into a rule-by-edict system or desperately reinvent itself through constitutional reform. In either case, the law will be shaped by power, not the other way around.

7. Stances of Senators and Political Actors

Caesarian Faction

- **Mark Antony:** A staunch Caesarian and consul, Antony reacted immediately by using his authority to stabilise the city. He secured the treasury and urged the Senate toward a compromise that spared Rome from immediate civil war. As Caesar's loyal lieutenant, Antony now sets his ambition on leading the Caesarian faction and safeguarding Caesar's legacy. He has allied himself firmly with Lepidus (Caesar's Master of Horse) and has accepted the young Octavian as Caesar's heir to avoid open conflict. Antony already regards the assassins (Brutus and Cassius) with bitter hostility and faces deep mistrust from Senate conservatives like Cicero.
- **Gaius Octavius (Octavian):** Although only nineteen and stationed with Caesar's armies in Macedonia, Octavian has become a Caesarian by adoption. He swiftly moved to claim Caesar's inheritance and send Caesar's body back to Rome for a hero's funeral. Octavian's ambition is to avenge his adoptive father and rise as a new leader of Rome; he is determined to assert himself politically (soon demanding the consulship). He has aligned early with Antony and Lepidus, setting the stage for what will become the Second Triumvirate. While Octavian shows deference to Antony now, there is an undercurrent of rivalry: he is wary of Antony's power and eager to prove himself as Caesar's true successor.
- **Marcus Aemilius Lepidus:** Lepidus was Caesar's Master of Horse and a loyal Caesarian general. Upon hearing of Caesar's death, he marched Caesar's veterans into Rome (on 16 March) to back Antony's orders and intimidate the Liberators. His initial reaction was hawkish – he even urged an assault on the Capitol to punish the assassins, though Antony



restrained him toward peace. Lepidus's ambition is personal power: he expects to be rewarded with high office (he will become consul and later a triumvir) and to help reshape Rome. He is firmly allied with Antony (they command the same legions) and, by extension, with Octavian, though he stands slightly apart due to his modest influence. Lepidus has few personal feuds yet, but even as a Caesarian, he is watched warily by his partners, who suspect he is too weak to be a true rival.

- **Lucius Cornelius Balbus:** Balbus is one of Caesar's oldest friends and a devoted Caesarian (even after Caesar's death). Hearing the murder, he was outraged and threw his support behind Antony's management of the crisis. His ambitions are modest: as a provincial noble, he now seeks to preserve Caesar's reforms and secure honours (he expects a proconsulship in Spain). Balbus is allied with Caesar's veterans and other Cesareans and is now quietly backing Antony as the power in Rome. He has no famous personal enemies aside from conservative senators who once mocked his Spanish heritage, but as a loyalist, he distrusts the assassins like Brutus and Cassius who threaten Rome's stability.
- **Publius Cornelius Dolabella:** Dolabella is the consul-designate for 44 B.C. and has been a Caesarian legate. When he learned of Caesar's murder, he initially assisted Antony in calming the Senate. As a man just appointed to the consulship by Caesar, Dolabella's ambition is self-evident: he now holds the consul's power and sees an opportunity to grasp supreme influence for himself. Formally allied with Antony (Antony accepted him as co-consul after Caesar's death), he nonetheless harbours his own agenda. He is also courting the favour of powerful figures like Cleopatra. Dolabella resents Cassius (who in a past war executed Dolabella's father-in-law), so there is a simmering personal tension with Cassius; on the other side, the Senate's aristocrats eye Dolabella warily for his ruthlessness (he has already moved to seize estates in Caesar's name).
- **Quintus Fabius Maximus:** Fabius Maximus was a Pompeian general displaced by Caesar, and he views Caesar's downfall as justice. He fled Italy after Caesar's rise and now sees the assassination as an opportunity to reclaim power. His ambition is to overthrow Caesar's faction and restore his own status, possibly as governor of Syria or another Eastern province. Having lost favour with Caesar, Fabius now quietly aligns himself with Cassius and the Liberators in the East. He is pursuing a formal allegiance with Cassius's camp in Asia. He harbours a deep grudge against Caesar for overriding his command, and now distrusts the Caesarian regime and its leaders (he has no love for Antony or Octavian).
- **Lucius Munatius Plancus:** Plancus served loyally under Caesar in Gaul and Africa, and



after Caesar's death, his allegiance remained Caesarian. At first, he reacted cautiously – as a consul of 42 and experienced governor, he hoped for a peaceful solution – but by mid-March, he sided with the Caesarian veterans. Plancus's ambition is to gain high office (he will become consul in 42) and secure a powerful eastern province. He now allies with Lepidus and Octavian, forming part of the Caesarian leadership. He does not trust Decimus Brutus (who replaced him in Gaul) and therefore holds some resentment toward the assassins. Plancus is also on watch with Cassius and Brutus, knowing they see his command in Gaul as illegitimate.

- **Gaius Asinius Pollio:** Pollio is a pragmatic Caesarian general and literary figure. He found Caesar's murder shocking and preferred a political settlement to outright war. His ambition is to help stabilize Rome and ensure the rewards of Caesar's conquests are preserved (he will later become consul in 40 B.C.). Though cautious, Pollio has aligned himself with Octavian and Lepidus after the assassination (acting as governor under Antony in Gaul). He was friends with Caesar but not blind to Caesarian faults, so he stands somewhat apart. He has a known enmity with Cicero (he often attacked him publicly), but now generally directs his distrust toward Antony's rivals.
- **Lucius Decidius Saxa:** Saxa is a hard-edged Caesarian legate who commanded Syria. He was shocked by the news but took no obvious action in Rome, choosing instead to secure Caesar's interests in the East. His ambition is to keep control of his eastern provinces (Syria and nearby territories) and expand his power. He is firmly allied with the Caesarian camp; in fact, Cleopatra has entrusted Egypt and Syria to his care in absentia. Saxa's known rivalries are few, but Cassius in particular hates him for the execution of Cassius's father-in-law after Thapsus. Saxa expects trouble from the Liberators, but he presently holds strong fortresses in Antony's name.
- **Quintus Fufius Calenus:** Calenus is a staunch Caesarian and friend of Antony. He reacted to the murder by backing Antony's conciliatory approach in the Senate. His ambition as a consul (he is suffect consul for 40 B.C.) is to see the Caesarian cause prevail. He remains closely allied with Antony (will later provide troops to him) and with Caesar's veterans. There is little in the way of personal feuds on his record, though he sometimes taunted old enemies like Cicero. Above all, Calenus is focused on revenge for Caesar: he has been outspoken in demanding that the assassins be dealt with – even if that means civil war.
- **Lucius Cornificius:** Cornificius was a Caesarian legate in Africa. He responded to Caesar's assassination with loyalty: after fleeing Catana, he returned to Italy supporting Caesar's



faction. His ambitions are to ascend to the highest ranks (he will become consul in 35 B.C.) and secure his future through military success. Cornificius is allied with the Caesarian veterans who still control the Forum. He has no friendly ties with Cassius (he fought Cassius in Africa), and therefore views the Liberators as traitors. His rivalry is principally with Cassius, whom he defeated; he sees Antony and Octavian as Rome's necessary leaders now.

- **Gaius Vibius Pansa Caetronianus:** Pansa is one of the consuls for 43 B.C. (elected for 44 but taking office after Caesar's death), known as a moderate Caesarian. On 16 March, he called the Senate to order and initially advocated concessions to avoid bloodshed. Pansa's ambition was modest: he sought a stable consulship and a peaceful reconciliation. He allied himself with the Caesarian faction, but also advocated pardoning the conspirators at first. When violence broke out, Pansa fought at Mutina against Mark Antony (in March 43) and was mortally wounded. He had personal respect for Cicero's cause, but ended as a loyalist to Octavian and Hirtius. He had no notable personal enemies, though he died fighting Antony's men.
- **Aulus Hirtius:** Hirtius was a veteran Caesarian soldier and consul for 43 B.C. He reacted to Caesar's murder with righteous indignation; he pushed decisively against the assassins. His ambition lay in military glory and politics – he achieved the consulship as a reward for his skill. Hirtius allied himself with Octavian and Pollio to oppose Antony. His chief conflict is with Mark Antony, whom he will engage at Mutina; he harboured no personal grudges against fellow Romans, seeing Antony as the main obstacle. Hirtius is determined to avenge Caesar and sees the Liberators as dangerous.
- **Quintus Pedius:** Pedius is Caesar's nephew by marriage and a devoted Caesarian. He reacted by fully supporting the Caesarian restoration; he marched with Hirtius and Octavian against Antony. His ambition is moderate – like his uncle, he seeks high office (becoming consul with Hirtius) and to secure his family's inheritance from Caesar. Pedius is closely allied to Octavian (in fact, Octavian was raised as his son) and to the veteran soldiers. He has no bitter personal feuds, except perhaps some ironic competitiveness with Lepidus (they once quarrelled in a boar hunt). He stands against Antony's aggression to protect what remains of Caesar's lineage.
- **Lucius Sempronius Atratinus:** Atratinus is a lesser-known senator, more an opportunist. He does not appear to have taken a bold public stance immediately after Caesar's death. His ambition has been fulfilled as he recently served as consul (34 B.C.); by 44 B.C., he seems



content. Atratinus later allies himself with Lepidus in the triumviral settlement, but for now remains a relatively neutral Caesarian. He has no notable rivalries; he keeps a low profile among the Caesarian veterans, avoiding extremes.

- **Publius Servilius Vatia Isauricus:** Vatia Isauricus is a veteran Caesarian commander from eastern campaigns. Upon hearing of Caesar's murder, he was away governing in Asia Minor; he likely maintained loyalty to Caesar's heir. His ambition was to celebrate a triumph in 44 B.C., but the turmoil forced him to return to Rome with caution. Once back in Italy (in spring 43), he aligned with Antony and the Caesarian veterans. He holds some suspicion of Brutus and Cassius (who had earlier tried to sway him), but his main focus is to secure respect and honours for himself. He had no personal enemies beyond the broad enmity toward the Liberators.
- **Sextus Julius Caesar:** Sextus Julius (not the dictator) is a distant relative of Caesar, serving as a Roman magistrate in the East. He had been assigned to govern Gaul (though he died before taking office). Hearing of Caesar's death, Sextus remained loyal to the Caesarian cause. His ambitions were modest – he sought a stable career and perhaps a triumph. He stands among Caesar's family as quietly supportive of Antony's leadership. He has no recorded personal feuds; as a loyalist, he looks askance at the assassins but is not a key actor in Rome.
- **Gaius Caninius Rebilus:** Rebilus was a loyal Caesarian magistrate in Rome. As Julius Caesar's praetor urbanus in 44, he took measures to maintain order after the assassination. His ambitions were straightforward: to execute Rome's laws under the new regime. Rebilus is allied with Caesar's veterans and was a friend of Caesar's, so he supports Antony's administration. He has no notable personal rivalries recorded; he was one of the few officials in the city and thus focused on stability more than factional fights.
- **Lucius Antonius:** Lucius Antonius is the younger brother of Mark Antony. He has the same Caesarian alignment by family loyalty. After the assassination, he publicly declared Caesar's murder an outrage and marched forces (along with his brother) to secure Italy. His ambition is simply to uphold his brother's interests and advance himself politically (he will later become tribune). He is allied steadfastly with Antony and Lepidus. No personal feuds of note are recorded yet, but as Antony's kin, he stands against the Liberators' faction.



Liberatores (Conspirators)

- **Marcus Junius Brutus:** Brutus is the most prominent of the Liberators. He saw himself as a staunch republican and believed that by killing Caesar, he had saved the Republic. In the immediate aftermath, Brutus took control of Caesar's adopted son and heirs from the Senate's leniency and proclaimed that no tyranny would stand. His ambition is ideological as much as personal: he aims to restore traditional senatorial rule and become a leader of the Republic (he also hopes for governorship of Cisalpine Gaul). He is allied closely with Cassius; together, they lead the Liberators. Brutus has personal tensions with Decimus Brutus (who craves more recognition) and knows that Antony is a mortal enemy.
- **Gaius Cassius Longinus:** Cassius is the other principal Liberator, more pragmatic than Brutus. After the murder, Cassius fled Rome to the East to gather legions. His ambition is to crush the Caesarian faction by force if necessary (he once declared he would oppose Antony). Cassius is allied with Brutus, though they have differing temperaments (tension sometimes arises between Cassius's caution and Brutus's idealism). He bore a personal hatred for Caesar since the dictator snubbed him in the past, and now he aims to avenge that. Cassius also regards Antony as an arch-enemy.
- **Decimus Junius Brutus Albinus:** Decimus Brutus was a trusted friend and legate of Caesar, but one of the conspirators in the plot. After Caesar's death, he secured Cisalpine Gaul (he had been designated to govern it). His ambition is to hold power in the North (he expected to govern Transalpine Gaul and perhaps Northern Italy) and to ensure freedom from tyranny. He is allied with the other Liberators, but he feels overshadowed by Marcus Brutus. There is personal tension: Decimus believed his own loyalty was underappreciated, and Brutus viewed him as a younger colleague. Like the others, Decimus views Antony with enmity (Antony tried to exclude him from Caesar's will).
- **Servilius Casca:** Casca (often called the younger Casca) is one of the first dagger-men. He took part in the actual assault on Caesar. In the aftermath, he fled Rome with the other assassins. His ambitions beyond the act are minimal: he fought for what he believed was the Republic's liberty. He is allied to Brutus and Cassius as one of their foot soldiers in the conspiracy. No notable personal rivalries are recorded; his enmity lies with Caesar's supporters and especially with Antony.



- **Gaius Trebonius:** Trebonius was another conspirator who had commanded Caesar's legions in Asia. On 15 March, he famously lured Antony away so the assassination could proceed undisturbed. Immediately after, he assumed the governorship of Asia in the name of the Republic. Trebonius's ambition is to secure a powerful provincial command and to see the Republic preserved in the East. He is allied with Brutus and Cassius, but he once had been a friend of Antony, so he moves with caution in later struggles. Trebonius resents Antony for being kept ignorant of the assassination and avoids him.
- **Lucius Tillius Cimber:** Cimber is also one of the conspirators (he presented the petition that distracted Caesar). After the deed, he escaped the Senate and went into hiding. His ambition is simply to cement the success of the assassination and uphold the Senate's liberty. He is allied with the Liberators. He had no significant personal rivalries; like the other assassins, he feared retribution from Caesar's men (Antony in particular).
- **Publius Servilius Casca Longus:** Casca Longus (often called Casca Longus) is the conspirator who dealt the first blow to Caesar's neck. He too, fled Rome after the murder. His ambition is purely to aid the cause of the Liberators; beyond that, he sought no special gain. He is allied with the rest of the conspirators. He has no personal enmities beyond Caesar's loyalists.
- **Lucius Statilius:** Statilius's exact role is unclear, but he is listed among the conspirators. He likely joined the assassination plot or sympathised with it. His immediate response would have been to support the Liberators. His ambition was presumably to see the Republic restored under Senate rule. He is thus allied with Brutus and Cassius by association. No known personal rivalries or notable conflicts are recorded for him.

Moderates and Opportunists

- **Gaius Antonius Hybrida:** Hybrida is a former consul and a moderate figure. In 44 B.C., he unexpectedly became a suffect consul (replacing Vatia Isauricus after Caesar's death). He had not been involved in the murder plot. His ambition is simple: he sought the honour of the consulship and then quickly faded from prominence. He is allied with Antony (a personal friend); after his short consulship, he fell under Antony's patronage. Hybrida had previously been Cicero's enemy, but in this crisis, he holds no known grudges. He is more opportunist than ideological, likely to follow the strongest Caesarian faction.



- **Gnaeus Domitius Ahenobarbus:** Ahenobarbus was a staunch opponent of Caesar (he supported Pompey) but did not participate in the assassination. When Caesar died, he took refuge in the Italian countryside (some say in Brundisium) and later vowed revenge on Antony. His ambition is to restore the senatorial order and possibly achieve the consulship (he will stand for consul in 43). He sympathises with Brutus and Cassius's cause but did not join them initially. He is allied with Cassius later on and even plans to raise an army. He has a personal rivalry with Antony (who captured him once in Spain), and he refuses to reconcile with Caesar's killers.
- **Lucius Cassius Longinus:** Lucius Cassius is a different Cassius (a jurist and relative of Gaius Cassius). Upon learning of the murder, he remained in Rome. Unlike his kinsman, he immediately denounced the conspirators in the Senate (even holding funeral games for Brutus's father). His ambition is to uphold the rule of law and protect Roman order; he may have hoped for high office as a result. He is allied with the Caesarian authorities after the murder, and with Octavian later (he served as consular legate). He had a personal feud with his cousin Gaius Cassius – he even prosecuted him in absentia – and he distrusted Antony's rough methods. He stands as a conservative defender of tradition against both extremes.
- **Lucius Gellius Publicola:** Publicola is a young aristocrat and a staunch republican. He immediately supported Brutus after the assassination and helped manage grain shipments for the Liberators. His ambition is to see the Republic restored; he later becomes consul in 36 B.C. He is allied with the Liberators early on, though less directly than Brutus himself. After Philippi, he tries to mediate peace with the triumvirs (seeking clemency). Publicola held contempt for Antony's autocratic tendencies. He has no famous feuds, though he knew Cassius well and later even sheltered Caesar's grandson with Cassius.
- **Marcus Claudius Marcellus:** Marcellus was a prominent optimist and the consul-elect for 44 B.C. He opposed Caesar on the Senate floor and demanded his abdication. After the assassination, Marcellus was furious at the turmoil; he strongly advocated punishing Antony rather than the conspirators (he is said to have remarked, "Our old friends have slain a good friend of ours"). His ambition was to hold high office (he had been destined for the consulship) and to champion the Republic. He was sympathetic to Brutus and Cassius (Cassius had considered him a leader), so in that sense, he was allied with the Liberators' cause. He hated Antony personally (Antony had once tried to banish him after the Circean scandal). Marcellus thus finds himself allied by sentiment with the assassins, but he remains a more conservative senator than Brutus.



- **Lucius Calpurnius Piso Caesoninus:** Piso was Caesar's father-in-law and an elder statesman. He had stayed out of public affairs recently. Upon hearing of his son-in-law's murder, Piso was stricken with grief and horror; he reportedly lamented publicly that "all was lost." His ambitions are quiescent – he had held the consulship in 58 B.C. and now simply cares for his grandchildren (Caesar's heirs). He is nominally aligned with Caesar's memory, blaming conspirators for the chaos, and thus sits aloof from their faction. He has no active alliances; he retired into mourning. Piso bears no personal enmity beyond sorrow (he wanted peace, not civil war).
- **Lucius Marcius Philippus:** Philippus is an experienced aristocrat (consul 56 B.C.) and the stepfather of Marcus Brutus. He welcomed the Republic's cause and quietly approved of Caesar's assassination. His ambition is to see political stability returned; as an elder, he offered counsel. He sided with Brutus and the Liberators personally, though he never held command. He has known no serious rivals; he simply advocates the Republic in the Senate.
- **Lucius Julius Caesar:** Lucius Julius is a distant cousin of the dictator and a former consul (64 B.C.). He had been largely sidelined under Caesar's regime. At news of the assassination, he appeared relieved but maintained a cautious silence. His ambition now is modest – he seeks to preserve his rank and avoid the new turmoil. He is aligned with the traditional senatorial party (some call him an optimate) and remains in Rome. He has no recorded personal feuds or major alliances; he stands as a conservative onlooker, backing clemency for his countrymen where possible.

8. Position Paper Guidelines and Expectations

Each delegate is required to submit a Position Paper before the beginning of the committee. This paper is a concise yet thoughtful articulation of your assigned portfolio's stance on the crisis, your proposed policies, and your broader strategy within the committee. Your Position Paper is not merely a summary—it is a declaration of intent, a plan of action, and an expression of your political ideology.



A. Structure of the Position Paper

Your Position Paper should be between 500–750 words, professionally written and formatted, and divided into the following sections:

1. Introduction to Portfolio

- Brief background of your character: political career, ideological affiliations, and relation to Caesar or the Republic.
- Define your current influence or role (military command, senatorial power, regional control, etc.).

2. Reaction to Caesar's Assassination

- What is your character's immediate response to the assassination?
- Do they support the conspirators or oppose them?
- What are the personal and political stakes involved?

3. Vision for Rome's Future

- Do you seek the restoration of the Republic, support a strongman or triumvirate, or aim to seize power yourself?
- Detail short-term goals (e.g., specific laws, alliances, military actions) and long-term strategies.

4. Strategic Alliances and Enemies

- Identify potential allies and rivals within the Senate.
- Consider how you will build coalitions or eliminate threats.

5. Contingency Plan

- If your primary strategy fails, how will you adapt?
- What's your political red line? What are you willing to compromise on?



B. Expectations

- **Historical Insight:** You are expected to reflect upon and showcase your character’s personality, legacy, and historical context, while creatively extrapolating and considering alternate scenarios.
- **Political Strategy:** Show a deep and connected understanding of Roman politics—power brokering, alliances, betrayal, and military strength – they all play roles.
- **Original Thinking:** Avoid generic or vague responses; we encourage and motivate originality. The best position papers present bold, well-reasoned, and most importantly, unique ideas and solutions with a clear sense of political identity.

C. Submission Guidelines

- Email or upload it to the designated platform before the committee deadline.
- Late submissions may receive reduced participation scores or committee penalties.
- End your position paper with a ‘Bibliography’ providing all the links, references and citations used in the making of the position paper.

Note: It is highly recommended to use verified sources for this committee, because a single misleading information can cause great mishappenings.

9. QARMAs – Questions a Resolution Must Answer

As senators gathered in crisis on 16 March 44 B.C.E., just one day after the assassination of Gaius Julius Caesar, the Roman Republic stood at a precipice. To determine Rome’s path forward, delegates must grapple with the following fundamental questions. These QARMAs should guide your speeches, crisis actions, resolutions, and alliances throughout the committee:

- Who, if anyone, holds the legitimate right to rule in the vacuum left by Caesar’s death?
- Should Caesar’s reforms, decrees, and appointments remain legally binding?

THE ROMAN SENATE

BACKGROUND GUIDE



- What is the legal and symbolic status of his will and adopted heir, Gaius Octavius?
- Should the assassins—Brutus, Cassius, and their co-conspirators—be celebrated as defenders of the Republic or prosecuted as traitors?
- Is granting amnesty to the conspirators a path to peace or an invitation to further chaos?
- What punishments, rewards, or reconciliations are just and politically advantageous?
- Should the Republic be restored to its traditional senatorial form, or is a new model of governance necessary?
- Can power be effectively shared between generals, governors, and senators, or must one faction dominate?
- Should Rome reestablish checks on individual power, or embrace centralised control to ensure stability?
- Who controls the legions loyal to Caesar, the Senate, or the various governors?
- Can the military be reliably subordinated to senatorial authority, or has it become a king-maker?
- Should any senator or general be granted extraordinary military powers in the name of Rome's survival?
- How should the Senate address loyalty and unrest in the provinces following Caesar's death?
- Are new provincial appointments and colonisation efforts needed to maintain order and economic flow?
- Can Rome continue to expand territorially amid internal chaos, or must it consolidate first?
- How should the Senate manage the urban plebs, many of whom revered Caesar and now riot in the streets?

THE ROMAN SENATE

BACKGROUND GUIDE



- Should bread and circuses continue as tools of control, or should political authority be asserted through force?
 - Can the loyalty of the people be redirected toward a new cause or figurehead?
 - Are Rome's borders and alliances secure, or do foreign enemies see an opportunity in this disarray?
 - Should Rome engage in diplomacy with Eastern client states and Parthia, or prepare for war?
 - Can internal peace be achieved while maintaining imperial dominance abroad?
 - With Caesar's economic reforms incomplete, how should the Senate address debt, land redistribution, and the grain supply?
 - Should the fiscal policies of Caesar be undone, continued, or expanded?
 - Who controls the treasury—and how should those resources be allocated in a time of crisis?
 - Should Caesar be posthumously deified, condemned, or simply forgotten?
 - How will his legacy influence the future of Roman governance and identity?
 - Is it politically wiser to uphold his image or actively rewrite it?
 - Will the Senate remain united for Rome's sake, or will personal ambition tear it apart?
 - Can the Triumvirate of Antony, Lepidus, and Octavius hold, or will it splinter into war?
 - Will secret deals, assassinations, or manipulations alter the Senate's destiny before open war breaks out?
-

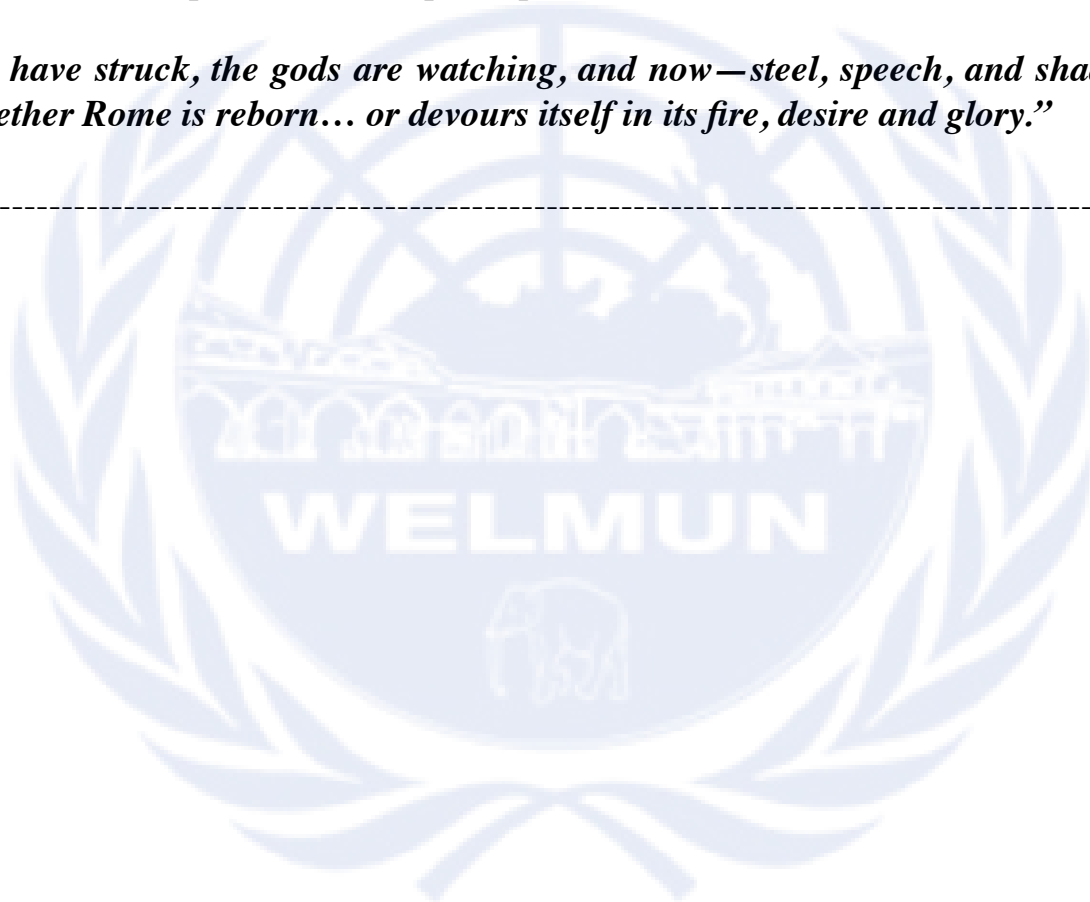


10. Conclusion

This committee represents a crossroads in Roman history. You, the senators of Rome, must determine whether the legacy of Caesar shall be erased, sanctified, or surpassed. Ambition, ideology, and survival will collide in every session. Remember: the future of the world's greatest civilisation rests in your hands.

Will you restore the Republic, seize imperial power, or fall to ruin?

“The Ides have struck, the gods are watching, and now—steel, speech, and shadow shall decide whether Rome is reborn... or devours itself in its fire, desire and glory.”





Bibliography

1. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Julius-Caesar>
– Offers a comprehensive biography of Julius Caesar, including his political career, reforms, and assassination.
2. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Ides-of-March-Roman-history>
– Details the events of Caesar's assassination on the Ides of March and its historical consequences.
3. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Roman-Republic>
– Explains the structure, evolution, and fall of the Roman Republic, essential for political and legal context.
4. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Mark-Antony>
– Provides background on Mark Antony's role in Roman politics and his position following Caesar's death.
5. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Marcus-Junius-Brutus>
– Discusses Brutus's role as a key conspirator in Caesar's assassination and his political motivations.
6. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Gaius-Cassius-Longinus>
– Gives insight into the life and ideology of Cassius, another central figure in the conspiracy against Caesar.
7. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Gaius-Octavius>
– Chronicles Octavian's early life and rise as Caesar's heir, crucial for understanding succession dynamics.
8. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Marcus-Aemilius-Lepidus>
– Describes Lepidus's role in Caesar's regime and his position in the post-assassination power struggle.

THE ROMAN SENATE

BACKGROUND GUIDE



9. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Rome-history>

– Provides a broader historical context of Rome, including political and urban developments in 44 B.C.E.

10. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Roman-civil-wars>

– Covers the series of civil wars triggered by Caesar's rise and death, central to the committee's crisis.

11. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Senate-ancient-Rome>

– Details the structure and powers of the Roman Senate, fundamental for understanding the committee setup.

12. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/First-Triumvirate>

– Explains the formation and impact of the First Triumvirate on Roman politics.

13. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Second-Triumvirate>

– Describes the post-assassination alliance of Octavian, Antony, and Lepidus and its implications.

14. <https://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/home.html>

– A digital archive offering translations of Roman historical texts and legal documents.

15. <https://www.livius.org/articles/person/julius-caesar/>

– A scholarly summary of Caesar's political and military actions, supporting narrative and timeline sections.

16. <https://sourcebooks.fordham.edu/ancient/asbook09.asp>

– Contains primary sources and speeches related to Caesar's life and Roman political developments.



17. <https://ancient.eu/article/56/julius-caesars-political-career-in-rome/>
– Offers an accessible overview of Caesar’s political rise and his impact on Republican institutions.
18. <https://cambridge.org/core/books/cambridge-companion-to-the-roman-republic>
– Academic volume analysing Republican structures, useful for the legal and political framework.
19. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/4435435>
– Scholarly article detailing the constitutional impact of Caesar’s dictatorship and reforms.
20. https://www.loebclassics.com/view/Plutarch-lives_caesar/1919/pb_LCL099.445.xml
– Plutarch’s account of Caesar’s life, used for direct insights into character motivations and public perception.
21. <https://archive.org/details/commentariesonca00caes>
– Caesar’s commentaries on his campaigns, helpful for establishing his military legacy and propaganda.
22. <https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus:text:1999.02.0079>
– Contains classical Latin texts with translations, especially relevant for speeches and senatorial decrees.
23. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/the-ides-of-march>
– Presents a narrative retelling of Caesar’s murder and its sociopolitical aftermath for general readers.
24. https://avalon.law.yale.edu/subject_menus/rome.asp
– Hosts legal documents and translations relevant to Roman constitutional and criminal law.



25. <https://oxfordre.com/classics/display/10.1093/acrefore/9780199381135.001.0001/acrefore-9780199381135-e-5653>

- A scholarly encyclopedia article analysing Caesar’s political influence and constitutional legacy.

