



# EthicalMUN VII

## Assassination of Caesar

### Chairs:

Lyla Santemma

Lilah Glassman

Jake Siegal

### Crisis Directors:

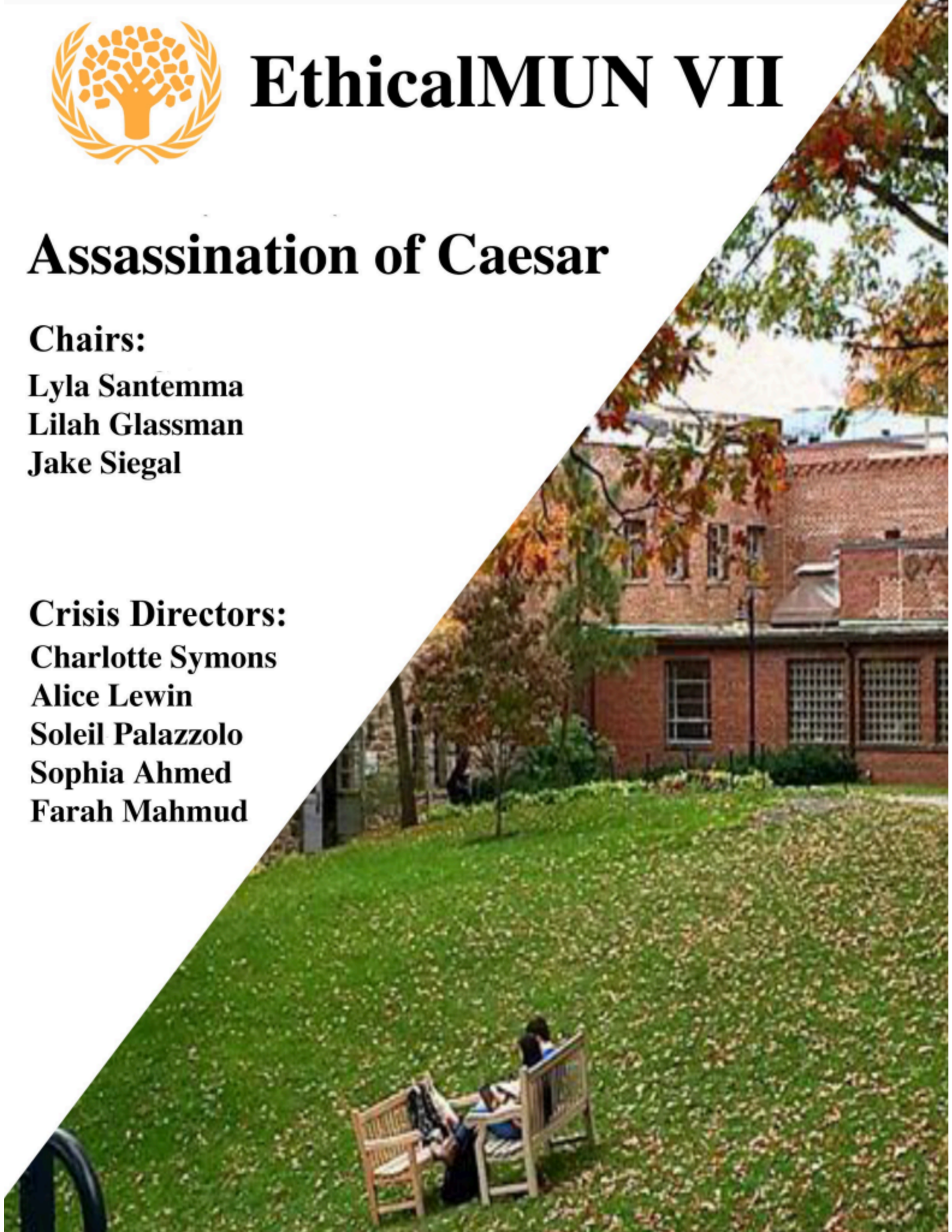
Charlotte Symons

Alice Lewin

Soleil Palazzolo

Sophia Ahmed

Farah Mahmud



## LETTER FROM THE CHAIRS

Hello delegates!

Welcome to EthicalMUN VII! We can't wait to meet all of you! EthicalMUN is an excellent conference for delegates of all experience levels. You should use this background guide to begin your research. It's a great starting place: properly utilizing it as you prepare will ensure that our committee is as productive as possible. We're looking to give you all a fantastic EthicalMUN experience, so make sure that you've prepared accordingly. We are so excited to see what you come up with, and we encourage you to get creative. See you all in May!

My name is Lyla Santemma and I'll be one of the co-chairs for the Assassination of Caesar committee. I'm a sophomore at Fieldston, and this is my fourth year doing Model UN. Outside of the club, I enjoy playing guitar, boxing, and spending time with loved ones. I'm looking forward to meeting you guys in the spring!

My name is Jake Siegel and I'll also be one of the co-chairs for the Assassination of Caesar committee. I am currently a freshman at Fieldston, and this is my first year participating in Model UN. Outside of Model UN, I enjoy skiing, playing the cello, and traveling. I am thrilled to meet everyone in May!

My name is Lilah Glassman, and I am a sophomore at the Ethical Culture Fieldston School, and will be your third co-chair. This is my fourth year doing Model UN! Participating in Model UN has taught me many valuable skills relating to research, writing, and collaboration. Outside of Model UN, I love to play soccer, spend time with friends, and sleep. I cannot wait to meet you all and chair the Assassination of Caesar committee at EthicalMUN this year!

This committee will discuss the causes, actions, and aftermath of Julius Caesar's assassination. Although we ask that delegates do their best to accurately argue the position that they've been assigned, we also ask them to think before they speak. We would like to ensure that all language used is appropriate and inclusive. Let's make this Ethical MUN the best one yet! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email Lilah ([26lrglassman@ecfs.org](mailto:26lrglassman@ecfs.org)), Lyla ([26ldsantemma@ecfs.org](mailto:26ldsantemma@ecfs.org)), or Jake ([27jsiegel@ecfs.org](mailto:27jsiegel@ecfs.org)).

xoxo,

Your Committee Staff

## **PROCEDURE**

This committee will follow the standard parliamentary procedure for Model UN. As a crisis committee, we will be in a perpetual moderated caucus. This means that once the debate is opened, delegates must motion for moderated or unmoderated caucuses. If not, the dais will revert to the perpetual moderated caucus or the speaker's list. Delegates in this committee should be prepared to write three kinds of legislation: directives, communiques, and press releases.

### **Perpetual Moderated Caucus:**

Unlike GA or Specialized Committees, Crisis Committees will not have a speakers list and will operate under a perpetual moderated caucus. A perpetual moderated caucus is a never-ending moderated caucus that runs for the entirety of the committee with no set topic. For this committee, the perpetual moderated caucus will have a 30-second speaking time. This perpetual moderated caucus will be suspended when a delegate proposes a motion. For example, if a motion for a five-minute moderated caucus passes, the perpetual moderated caucus will be suspended, and the committee will enter the five-minute moderated caucus. If there are no points or motions on the floor, the chair will revert to the perpetual moderated caucus.

### **Relevant Points and Motions:**

- Point of Inquiry
- Point of Information
- Point of Personal Privilege
- Point of Order
- Motion to Open Debate

- Motion for a Moderated

Caucus

- Motion for an Unmoderated

Caucus

- Motion for a Round Table

- Motion to Introduce All Papers

on the Dais

- Motion to Introduce an

Amendment

- Motion to divide the Question

- Motion to Enter Voting

Procedure

- Motion to Adjourn Debate

## **Written Papers**

**Crisis Notes:** Crisis notes, sometimes referred to as personal directives, are ways for delegates to use their own portfolio powers to change the flow of the committee. Crisis notes must be addressed to the Crisis and should be delivered to the dais. Crisis notes do not need to be written in clause form but should be clear and detailed. Once again, crisis notes will only be met if the requests lie in the realms of a delegate's portfolio powers. Crisis notes are the most personally powerful and dangerous piece of legislation in committee. Good crisis notes should direct the flow of the committee in a direction that benefits oneself and the whole committee as well.

Before sending a note, make sure this is in character with your delegate. Crisis notes do not have

to be voted on by the entire committee, as they are unilateral. If delegates choose, two or more delegates may collaborate to use their portfolio powers to write a joint crisis note. Portfolio powers will be given during Committee Session I.

**Directives:** Directives, the most common piece of legislation, are sponsored by one or more delegates. Directives use the entire power of the committee to solve and respond to crisis updates. They should be written in clauses; however, unlike clauses for General Assemblies, the operative clauses include actionable words, such as “creates” or “deploys.” Also, by their nature, they are shorter than full-length resolutions. Directives require a simple majority from the committee to be passed. The dais will decide the exact number of signatories, sponsors, and votes that each directive requires at the beginning of each session. To read directives aloud, delegates must motion for directives to be presented. This must be followed with another motion, either a motion for more debate or to go into the voting procedure. Multiple directives may be passed in a crisis committee, and the crisis directors will provide crises based on whatever legislation was passed in the committee.

**Communiques:** Communiques are a way for delegates to address people, entities, or other organizations not represented in the committee. Communiques can request special information, individual meetings with bodies outside the committee, or certain materials or resources. Each request must be in the realm of the delegate’s portfolio powers (i.e. if a Bella is asking to assassinate another member). Each communique should be written as a formal letter, with as much specificity as possible. Remember, if you don’t provide the details in your letters, we will make our own. These should be delivered to the chairs but addressed to Crisis.

**Press Releases:** Press releases are ways for the whole committee to express sentiments and updates to the public. Press releases will be presented in the same style as directives and require the same amount of sponsors and signatories as directives. Keep in mind that press releases do not do much to alter the flow of the committee in general.

**Blocs:** Blocs are groups of allies that usually vote together on issues and may have some sort of common end goal. In this committee, everyone is working towards the same goal, so there may not be blocs, but alliances will be common and remember to think about what your position wants as an end goal: almost everyone wants something after the pandemic is over, so think about how to achieve that and who to ally with in order to do so. Like all committees, collaborating with other delegates is strongly recommended. However, in a crisis committee, it is also encouraged that one stays in character and acts in accordance with their character's motivations.



La Morte di Cesare by Vincenzo Camuccini, early 19th Century, Galleria Nazionale d'Arte Moderna in Rome

## **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:**

Today, Caesar's death is still considered to be one of the most iconic events of ancient history. It marked a pivotal moment in the transition from the Roman Republic to the Roman Empire. By 44 B.C.E., Roman dictator Gaius Julius Caesar had amassed immense political power. As such, his influence began to cause concern among politicians and senators. They feared that Caesar aimed to undermine traditional Roman republican institutions, and they believed that he was simply too powerful. They saw that his influence posed a threat to the state, despite his popularity among the common people. And so, for the sake of the Republic, the senators decided to kill him.

On the Ides of March (March 15th in our Gregorian Calendar) of that year, Caesar was set to attend a session of the Roman Senate at the Theatre of Pompey. He was aware that many of his fellow senators believed him to be dangerous. He knew that his life could be in danger. His

wife, Calpurnia, had told him about her ominous dreams. A seer had provided him with eerie foreknowledge. Despite all of this, Caesar decided to go. As he entered the Senate chamber, a group of close to sixty senators, led by Gaius Cassius Longinus and Marcus Junius Brutus, surrounded him. These men had conspired to assassinate Caesar. At first, they made it seem as though they wanted to discuss matters of the state with the dictator. But, suddenly, and in a coordinated attack, they drew their daggers and began to stab him.

When Caesar saw Brutus, a former ally, among his attackers, he is famously said to have uttered the words, "Et tu, Brute?" ("And you, Brutus?")<sup>1</sup>. Caesar died at the foot of the statue of Pompey, his former political rival, whom he'd previously beaten in a civil war. Following the assassination, Rome descended into chaos. The state became unstable both politically and socially, creating a need for law and order.

### **CURRENT CRISIS:**

Caesar has just been assassinated at the Theatre of Pompey! Rome is in crisis and on the brink of civil war. Many of the people resent the senators for killing their beloved leader. The Republic has fallen. Some generals and politicians desperately want to avenge Caesar, and some side with the conspirators. Many are looking to be Caesar's successor. But the fallen leader has named an heir: his teenage great-nephew Octavian is set to take over. Octavian begins to clash with other leaders of the state and conflict rages on. Your task is to bring peace and order to Rome. You must restore the state's glory in the wake of Caesar's death. The nature of the solution is up to you, but it should account for the many nuanced, complex conflicts within the now-fallen Republic.

---

<sup>1</sup> In reality, though, he didn't say this- the quote came from Shakespeare's 1599 play "Julius Caesar".



## **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:**

1. What status do I hold in society?
  - How does that impact the power I hold/influence I exert?
2. Who are my greatest enemies and allies?
  - What power/influence do they hold?
3. What do I want the future of Rome to look like?
  - Why do I want it to look like this?
  - What do I have to do to make that happen?
  - Do I have the resources to make that happen?
4. What are my greatest strengths and weaknesses?
5. Who/what poses a threat to me?
  - Is there anything I can do to mitigate this threat?
  - If so, what?
6. Do I hold common beliefs of the time?
  - If not, how does that impact the way I interact with others?
7. How can I bridge the gap between people on different sides of the debate?
  - Is there common-ground?
  - Can there be a solution that is unanimously agreed upon?

## POSITIONS:

1. **(Ghost of) Gaius Julius Caesar** was a highly successful Roman general and, eventually, autocrat. He was a remarkably successful conqueror: Caesar commanded the military in the conquest of Gaul. He greatly expanded Roman territory. His political prominence grew, and Caesar was appointed dictator for life. As emperor, he pushed for great reform in government. His leadership ultimately shifted Rome from a republic to an empire. Caesar died in 44 B.C.E, when he was stabbed to death in the Theater of Pompey.
2. **Brutus**, a famed orator statesman was born around 85 B.C. He played a pivotal role in the assassination of Julius Caesar, aiming to defend the Roman Republic. This act led to a civil war and his eventual defeat at the Battle of Philippi in 42 B.C. Shortly after, he committed suicide.
3. **Cassius**, a Roman senator born around 85 B.C., was a key conspirator in Caesar's assassination. He was known for his intelligence and ambition. Cassius, along with Brutus orchestrated Caesar's death. At the Battle of Philippi, he chose to take his own life rather than face captivity.
4. **Marcus Antonius** was a Roman politician and commander. He was a supporter of Caesar, serving as one of his generals throughout his conquests. After Caesar was killed, Antonius formed a political alliance with two of Caesar's other former generals. The group was known as the Second Triumvirate, and was made up of Marc Antony, Octavian, and Lepidus. But the alliance quickly became strained as each member began to want more power for himself.
5. **Marcus Tullius Cicero**, known today as simply "Cicero," was a Roman lawyer, philosopher, and statesman. He came from a wealthy family and was educated in both

Rome and Greece. Cicero wrote extensively about ethical teachings and natural law, and is considered to be one of the greatest orators of Rome. After Caesar's death, he proclaimed himself an enemy of Marcus Antonius.

6. **Lepidus**, was part of the triuvirate with Marcus Antonius. He was a close ally of Caesar. Lepidus served as the last high priest of the Roman Republic; he held many high positions in government and was also a successful general for the military.
7. **Gaius Julius Caesar Augustus**, or "Octavian," was the first emperor of Rome. His reign began a period of peace in the empire, known as the "Pax Romana." Caesar was his great-uncle. Octavian was a member of the Second Triumvirate, which looked to take down Caesar's killers. As Lepidus faced exile and Antonius was eventually defeated in battle by Octavian (his former ally), Octavian was the sole ruler of the empire-to-be. He expanded Rome greatly, but also reformed the Empire from the inside as well.
8. **Calpurnia**, was the third and final wife of Julius Caesar who is famously known for her role in the events leading up to Caesar's death. Through a series of vivid dreams and omens, she had a premonition of Caesar's impending assassination. She repeatedly warned her husband not to attend the Senate session, and he eventually gave in to her pleas. However, Brutus persuaded him to act against his wife, ultimately leading to his death.
9. **Pacuvius Labeo**, was a Roman jurist and senator who was involved in Caesar's assassination. He joined the conspiracy of Brutus and fought alongside him at the Battle of Philippi. The Battle of Philippi was a conflict between the Second Triumvirate (led by Marcus Antonius and Octavian) and Caesar's assassins (led by Brutus and Cassius).

10. **Gaius Trebonius**, was a military commander and politician in the late Roman Republic, and in 45 BC, he became consul. While Trebonius was a strong supporter of Julius Caesar during his conquest of Gaul and served as Caesar's legate, he ultimately contributed to Caesar's death.
11. **Pontius Aquila**, was a Roman politician, military commander, and assassin of Julius Caesar. He was a committed Republican and strongly supported Caesar's opponent (Pompey) during the civil war. From the beginning, he had complicated relations with Caesar. In 45 BC, Aquila, unlike the other tribunes, refused to stand up during a procession to honor Caesar during his dictatorship. Caesar took that quite personally and from there, tension began to grow.
12. **Cleopatra**, was a ruler of Egypt who famously became romantically involved with Julius Caesar after seeking his support to reclaim her throne. Their relationship further solidified her position in Egypt. After Caesar's assassination, Cleopatra aligned herself with Caesar's ally Mark Antony, becoming his lover and ally against Octavian/Augustus in the struggle for power in Rome.