

ST. BERNARD high school

HONORS WORLD HISTORY Summer Assignment Machiavelli – *The Prince*

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Welcome to your first assignment in Honors World History.

Your task is to read Nicolo Machiavelli's *The Prince* (1513) and complete the two exercises below. Part I is a CRITICAL THINKING EXERCISE and Part II is a PROJECT BASED LEARNING EXERCISE.

You can easily find the text of *The Prince* online if you can not find a hard copy of the book. **This assignment is mandatory.** Assignments are due on the first day of class at the beginning of the period in hard copy. Late assignments will not be accepted.

TEXT SUMMARY:

The Prince is an extended analysis of how to acquire and maintain political power. It includes 26 chapters and an opening dedication to Lorenzo de Medici. The dedication declares Machiavelli's intention to discuss in plain language the conduct of great men and the principles of princely government. He does so in hope of pleasing and enlightening the Medici family.

The book's 26 chapters can be divided into four sections: Chapters 1–11 discuss the different types of principalities or states, Chapters 12–14 discuss the different types of armies and the proper conduct of a prince as military leader, Chapters 15–23 discuss the character and behavior of the prince, and Chapters 24–26 discuss Italy's desperate political situation. The final chapter is a plea for the Medici family to supply the prince who will lead Italy out of humiliation.

Part I: CRITICAL THINKING.

The questions are higher order thinking questions and require thoughtful responses. May be several paragraphs in length. Answers should be typed using Times Roman 12 pt.; double space, Half inch indent for each paragraph.

Essay Questions

1. **Describe** the qualities of Machiavelli's ideal prince. What characteristics should a prince possess, and how should a prince behave? What can be done to resist *fortuna*?
2. Examine the instances in which Machiavelli discuss "the people." What is his **attitude** toward the people and their interests? How does he **portray** them? How does he **portray** their opposites, the nobles?
3. **Describe** Machiavelli's concept of free will. **How** is *virtù* involved in this concept? According to Machiavelli, to what extent can free will be acted out effectively?
4. **Why** is the prince's public image important to Machiavelli? **What** should a prince do to maintain a good reputation? **How** should the prince present himself to the people he rules?

Part II: PROJECT BASED LEARNING

Create a poster and prepare a 3-5 minute presentation to the class. The poster should be at least 11X 17 and your drawing large enough to be clearly viewed by the entire class during your presentation.

The poster's title is **Machiavelli's The Prince** and will include a drawing of a Prince which *symbolically* demonstrates *ten characteristics that are essential for a Prince to rule successfully*. For instance, the Prince can be holding a scroll which can symbolize that the Prince should be well-educated.

Your poster will be evaluated on effective use of symbols, color, completeness and accuracy of information. Refer to the checklist when preparing your presentation.



Both Part One and Part Two are due on the first day of classes. This assignment is worth 10% of your first quarter grade in Honors World History and is a mandatory assignment. No late assignments will be accepted.