**The President and The Prince**

Could President Obama be a better leader? Many Americans seem to think so considering his 42% approval ratings. In this project you will be advising President Obama on how to be a more effective leader by using advice from Niccoló Machiavelli in his classic tome, The Prince.

Your advice can take one of these forms:

1) A five page White Paper recommending specific actions Obama should take on three specific foreign and/or domestic issues. Before making recommendations, you need to clearly explain those issues and then justify your advice by showing how using The Prince would improve his action on those issues. The paper should be double-spaced, size 12 font, 1 inch margins.

2) 2-4 person debate on one of the following topics:

* Better to be feared than loved.
* The ends justify the means (or, more accurately, the outcome is what matters most)
* Appearances are more important than reality.

Each debate needs to be based on examples from Obama’s presidency, but you may use other examples from other presidents or leaders as well. It will follow classical Lincoln-Douglass format and last 24 minutes total (see me for directions on debate format)

3) 1-2 person presentation analyzing three specific foreign and/or domestic issues where Obama has fallen short and recommending specific actions from Machiavelli.

The presentation should be in the format of an illustrated lecture:

* Slides must have a title and image;
* If words are used, follow the 3 x 5 rule: no more than 3 bullets per slide and no more than 5 words per bullet.
* The presentation should be no longer than 15 minutes, no shorter than 10.

**Each project needs to include a properly formatted Works Cited page and is due Tuesday, September 23.**

**Rubric**

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|  | Emerging (2) | Proficient (3) | Exemplary (4) |
| Content | References to The Prince show basic but minimal understanding of Machiavelli’s ideas  Most references to text are accurate but some may be erroneous or not contextualized  Some references to text are significant and relevant; need more relevance and/or references  Need more or better examples from Obama or need greater explanation of how they relate to text | References to The Prince reflect Machiavelli’s most important ideas with sufficient depth & detail  References to text are accurate and explained/  contextualized  Most references to text are significant and relevant; has sufficient quantity of references to support argument  Examples from Obama are appropriate, explained, and relevant to text | References to The Prince reflect insight and clear understanding of the entire book  References to text are accurate, specific and explained/context-  ualized for present & past  All references to text are significant and relevant; nothing significant is excluded  Examples from Obama highlight the most significant aspects of his presidency and are clearly connected to text |
| Communication | Mode of communication needs more practice/revision.  Project relates information simply but needs greater organi-zation. Errors may impede audience’s full understanding.  Verbal presentations may lack energy, coordination, communicative body language, or voice projection.  Text/images on slides do not convey meaning adequately, are difficult to comprehend, or are gratuitous. | Mode of communication is appropriate for students’ skill set and reflects effort  Project relates information in a simple but organized and convincing manner. Errors disturb but do not impede understanding. Adequate but needs more revision/practice.  Verbal presentations are energetic and easy to follow. Sufficient coordination and use of public speaking skills.    Text/images on slides are limited to what is necessary for understanding and easy to comprehend; connect Obama to Machiavelli | Mode of communication is polished and reflects a high level of skill  Project relates information in an organized, detailed, and in-depth manner. Project reflects research, analysis, insight and revision. Few errors and don’t disrupt flow.  Verbal presentations are enthusiastic, enjoyable to listen to, and use appropriate public speaking skills to communicate message.  Text/images on slides are of high quality, clarify ideas, and connect Obama to Machiavelli insightfully |