Excerpts from *The Prince*¹

Everyone realizes how praiseworthy it is for a prince to honor his word and to be straightforward rather than crafty in his dealings; nonetheless experience shows that princes who have achieved great things have been those who have given their word lightly, who have known how to trick men with their cunning, and who, in the end, have overcome abiding by honest principles ...

A prince, therefore, need not necessarily have all the good qualities I mentioned above, but he should certainly appear to have them. I would even go so far as to say that if he has these qualities and always behaves accordingly he will find them harmful; if he only appears to have them they will render him service. He should appear to be compassionate, faithful to his word, kind, and devout. And indeed he should be so. But his disposition should be that, if he needs to be the opposite, he knows how. You must realize this: that a prince, and especially a new prince, cannot observe all those things which give men a reputation for virtue, because in order to maintain he state he is often forced to act in defiance of good faith, of charity, of kindness, of religion. And so he should have a flexible disposition, varying as fortune and circumstances dictate. As I said above, he should not deviate from what is good, if that is possible, but he should know how to do evil, if that is necessary.

Passing to the other qualities above referred to, I say that every prince should desire to be accounted merciful and not cruel. Nevertheless, he should be on guard against the abuse of this quality of mercy. Cesare Borgia was reputed cruel, yet his cruelty restored Romagna, united it, and brought to it order and obedience; so that if we look at things in their true light, it will be seen that he was in reality for more merciful than the people of Florence, who, to avoid the imputation of cruelty, suffered Pistoia to be torn to pieces by factions.

A prince should therefore disregard the reproach of being thought cruel where it enables him to keep his subject united and obedient. For he who quells disorder by very few signal examples will in the end be more merciful than he who too great leniency permits things to take their course and so to result in rapine and bloodshed; for these hurt the whole State, whereas the severities of the Prince injure individuals only. ...

And here comes the questions whether it is better to be loved rather than feared, or feared rather than loved. It might perhaps be answered that we should wish to be both, but since love and fear can hardly exist together, if we must chose between them, if is safer to be feared than loved. For men if may generally be affirmed that they are thankless, fickle, false, studious to avoid danger, greedy of gain, devoted to you while you are able to confer benefits upon them, and ready, as I said before, while danger is distant, to shed their blood, and sacrifice their property, their lives, and their children for you; but in the hour of need they turn against you. ...

Moreover, men are less careful how they offend him who makes himself loved that him who makes himself feared. For love is held by the tie of obligation, which, because men are a sorry breed, is broken on every whisper of private interest; but fear is bound by the apprehension of punishment which never relaxes it grip. ...

Returning to the question of being loved or feared, I sum up by saying, that since his being loved depends on his subjects, while his being feared depends upon himself, a wise Prince should build on what is his own, and not on what rests with others. Only, as I have said, he must do his up most to escape hatred.

The Prince—Short Answer Questions
Page 1 of 2

All answers must:
1) Appear only in the box. (Draft your answers first on another paper)
2) Contain quotes from The Prince,
3) Form a paragraph having multiple sentences, or develop an idea.

1) What does Machiavelli think about the nature of men?

2) According to Machiavelli, what are the things that a Prince must avoid?
3) According to the Prince, is it better to be loved or feared? Why?

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4) Why would you recognize The Prince as writing from the Renaissance?

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“Problems” Handout

Use the Seven Step Decision Making process and fill in the worksheet. Pick 1.

1) Immigration: What is the United States to do about illegal immigration?

2) Space Travel: Should the NASA program be cut or extended?

3) Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD): If we determine a country hostile to the USA has WMDs (weapons of mass destruction), what should be the USA’s response?

4) Your school district is considering changing World History Textbooks to an on-line web-based book. Is your school ready?

5) Smoking: Your city council is about to vote on whether or not to make all public places tobacco-free. What should their decision be?

6) Homelessness: How should the USA approach the issue of homelessness? Should the resources (funding, manpower, and accountability) come from local/municipal government, state government, or National government?

7) Voter Participation: the United States has the lowest voter participation of any democracy in the western world. What can we do?

8) Prison Over-crowding: What should we do about our over-crowded prisons?

Teacher or student created problems:
### “Problems” Worksheet:

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<th>Proposed steps:</th>
<th>WWMD What Would Machiavelli Do?</th>
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<td>Look at potential Causes</td>
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<td>Select the approach to use</td>
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