

AP Government Summer Reading Assignment
The Prince by Niccolo Machiavelli
Hardball by Chris Matthews
(PLEASE USE THE MOST RECENT EDITION OF Hardball)

Please Note: The summer reading assignment for **The Prince** and **Hardball** is due on the **second day of school in August, 2011**. The summer reading test will be given sometime during the first two weeks of school in **September, 2011**.

As you write...After you finish the books, answer the following questions (**Parts I-II-III**) in complete sentences. Use **your own original** thoughts and ideas, please. Your responses should be **typed** and **double-spaced**. Whenever appropriate, make sure you support your arguments and claims with textual evidence. Do not over-quote, however; it is often enough to refer to the relevant passage with a parenthetical reference (...as Matthews explains on p.92). However, when directly citing material, please use italics, author name, and page number ("***I say again a prince must respect the nobility, but avoid the hatred of the common people***", Machiavelli, p.73).

Part I

Writing Assignment for The Prince by Niccolo Machiavelli

- You will be reading the book that many political thinkers and politicians say created modern politics. The language is 16th century, but the ideas are contemporary.
- It is important that you actually **read** this book! There are many translations of **The Prince** out there or you can find multiple copies on the Internet. Use Sparknotes, Classnotes, Cliffnotes, or other websites as guides only. Reading the actual book is **KEY** to understanding Niccolo and his masterpiece.
- Machiavelli's masterpiece has become famous for its insightful understanding of the nuances of political intrigue. Select **FIVE (5) quotes** from **The Prince** to examine more closely. Interpret the quotation, then offer a real-life example (may be historical or contemporary) to illustrate your understanding

Quotations from The Prince

1. "A prince should therefore have no other aim or thought, nor take up any other thing for his study but war and its organization and discipline, for that is the only art that is necessary to one who commands."
2. "He who has not first laid his foundations may be able with great ability to lay them afterwards, but they will be laid with trouble to the architect and danger to the building."
3. "Men judge generally more by the eye than by the hand, for everyone can see and few can feel. Every one sees what you appear to be, few really know what you are."
4. "Since love and fear can hardly exist together, if we must choose between them, it is far safer to be feared than loved."

5. "And that prince who bases his power entirely on...words, finding himself completely without other preparations, comes to ruin;"
6. "Men are less hesitant about harming someone who makes himself loved than one who makes himself feared because love is held together by a chain of obligation which, since men are wretched creatures, is broken on every occasion in which their own interests are concerned; but fear is sustained by dread of punishment which will never abandon you."
7. "One should never allow chaos to develop in order to avoid going to war, because one does not avoid a war but instead puts it off to his disadvantage."
8. "For a prince should have two fears: one, internal concerning his subjects; the other, external, concerning foreign powers. From the latter he can always defend himself by his good troops and friends; and he will always have good friends if he has good troops."
9. "And here one must not believe that hatred is acquired just as much by means of good actions as by bad ones; and so, as I said above, if a prince wishes to maintain the state, he is often obliged not to be good; because whenever that group which you believe you need to support you is corrupted, whether it be the common people, the soldiers, or the nobles, it is to your advantage to follow their inclinations in order to satisfy them; and then good actions are your enemy."
10. "And it will always happen that he who is not your friend will request your neutrality and he who is your friend will ask you to declare yourself by taking up arms. And irresolute princes, in order to avoid present dangers, follow the neutral road most of the time, and most of the time they are ruined."

Part II

Writing Assignment for Hardball by Chris Matthews

- This book is a contemporary discussion of political strategies used by some modern day presidents. In the book, the author Chris Matthews defines the title term:

"Hardball is clean, aggressive Machiavellian politics. It is the discipline of gaining and holding power, useful to any profession or undertaking, but practiced most openly and unashamedly in the world of public affairs".
- Matthews supports his observations and conclusions with quotes from a variety of sources and a number of political maxims or rules. Select **FIVE (5) quotes** to examine more closely. Your task is to describe the context of the **FIVE** quotes, then **explain** and **analyze** each quote using at least one of the political maxims.

Political Quotes

1. "He's not going to win. It's a Republican district. He'd be better for us if he loses. He'll work for me. He'll bring his organization with him."
2. "...Ronald Reagan is a man of the media: the Great Wholesaler ... He was positioning himself with enormous science, establishing himself in the public mind not as an aloof head of government but as the man next door. Every action was designed to make him appear close to the people and distant from the government."
3. "I've lived across the street from you for 18 years ... I shoveled your walk in winter. I cut your grass in summer... I didn't think I had to ask you for your vote. He never forgot her response. 'Tom, I want you to know something: people like to be asked.' "
4. "Better to have them p....n' inside the tent than outside p....n' in."
5. "... the elections of 1994 were a rough slap in the face. His party lost control of both houses of Congress for the first time since 1954 ... Rather than join his fellow Democrats in defeat, he took advisor Dick Morris's advice ... 'parroting the rhetoric of the congressional Democrats would merely be sharing the storm cellar with them ... Adopting the Republican agenda begged the question. The president needed to take a position that blended the best of each party's position.' "
6. "Florida Senator, Lawton Chiles, rejected the well-tailored dark blue suit so fashionable in D.C. 'When I dress like that, no one comes up to me in the airport to say hello.' "
7. "Cry Baby", screamed the headline of the New York Daily News above a picture of Newt in diapers. "Newt's Tantrum: He closed down the government because Clinton made him sit at the back of the plane."
8. "... His message came across clear and appealing ... He described America as a country 'where no Catholic prelate would tell the President -- should he be a Catholic - how to act and no Protestant minister would tell his parishioners for whom to vote. This is a country where religious liberty is so indivisible that an act against one Church is treated as an act against all.' "
9. "JFK would call 5 or 6 ... LBJ would take 19 names and call them all."
10. "The purpose of the war room was not just to respond to Republican attacks ... It was to respond to them fast, even before they were broadcasted or published, when the lead of the story was still rolling around in the reporter's mind..."

Political Maxims

- What've ya done for me lately?
- All politics is local
- Triangulation
- It's better to receive than to give
- Keep your enemies in front of you
 - Don't Get Mad; Don't Get Even; Get Ahead
 - Leave no shot unanswered.
- Hang a Lantern on Your Problem
- Politics = Power
 - Only talk when it improves the silence
 - Retail politics
 - Dance with the one that brung ya

Part III

In The Prince, Machiavelli argues that a successful ruler must know how to be good, but must also know "how not to be good." In Hardball, Chris Matthews examines modern day politicians who must deal with the pressures of the press, interest groups, and the two-party system. The two authors, while centuries look at power and politics with the same watchful and knowledgeable eye.

1. How much of The Prince is relevant to contemporary society in an age when monarchies no longer are the primary form of government?
2. Discuss three political figures mentioned in Hardball who chose "not to be good," in the sense Machiavelli means. Find bios of these leaders and explain whether or not each is Machiavellian, using relevant, thoughtful examples. What are some of the issues he/she faced? How did he/she take on the issues? What were the results? Do you agree with the choices made? **(Be certain to attach the bios with your comments, highlights, and notes.)**
3. Using the three politicians you selected above, decide whether or not Machiavelli would have crowned each of them with the title of "prince". Offer perspective from relevant parts of The Prince as your evidence.

PLEASE NOTE: Be sure to include a COVER-PAGE with the following information: NAME OF COURSE, TITLE OF ASSIGNMENT, STUDENT NAME and DATE. The summer assignment is due on the second day of school in August, 2011. The summer reading assessment will be given sometime during the first two weeks of school in September, 2011.

GOOD LUCK & GOD BLESS !

