

**W. T. Woodson High School**  
**Summer Assignment for AP European History**

Read Machiavelli's *The Prince*. The entire text is available on several websites, including <http://www.ilt.columbia.edu/publications/machiavelli.html> . You may also purchase any edition of the book, if you prefer, or borrow a copy from the library.

Choose one **contemporary** European leader, who has been in power at some time since 1900. Research this leader's biography, especially his or her political style and accomplishments or failures. You will receive at most half credit if you disregard this instruction and choose a leader who is not European or was not in power in the years following 1900.

As you read, consider whether and how your chosen leader's life does or does not show that Machiavelli's advice to leaders is still relevant today.

Prepare three 3X5" note cards, which you may use when you write an essay in class on the subject of whether your leader's life shows that Machiavelli's advice is or is not relevant for today's leaders. On each note card, write one quotation from Machiavelli which you will discuss as it relates to the leader's life—for example, "The prince must be a lion, but he must also know how to play the fox." Add to the card details from the leader's life that are pertinent to the quotation from Machiavelli. You will receive up to 5 required completion points for each note card, so be sure to turn them in with your essay.

In class, we will discuss the writings of Machiavelli and the requirements of the AP European History free response question. You may refer to your three note cards when you write a timed essay on your research in class at the end of the second week of school.

I anticipate that you will be able to complete this assignment in ten hours or less. Please contact me at [Janet.Martin@fcps.edu](mailto:Janet.Martin@fcps.edu) if you have any questions.