

Machiavelli and Pico Readings

Answer the following on a separate sheet of paper prior to our discussion.

1. Why does Pico argue that “man” is the most “marvelous” thing?
2. What evidence does he give for his point of view?
3. What, according to Pico, makes “man” different from everything other form of life in the universe?
4. According to Machiavelli, should the Prince worry about being known as a miser? What reasoning does he give?
5. Does Machiavelli think it is better for a Prince to be loved or feared?
6. Why must the Prince be both a fox and lion, according to Machiavelli?
7. What connections do you see between these two readings and the modern world? Are these ideas still relevant today? Why/why not?