

Procedure:

1. Brainstorm qualities they would want in a leader
2. Give students a leader and have them circle traits this leader should possess
 - a. Make a list on the board
 - b. Give them leadership positions from the list below.
3. Discuss, **As a leader, is it better to be feared or loved?**
4. Brainstorm skills, traits, or powers that students think help a leader get ahead or get things done.
5. Introduce Machiavelli with the story of the priest Savonarola being hanged in 1498 for preaching that people could be guided by “natural reason”. He was arrested, tortured ([strappado](#)) and beaten for 10 days, paraded through the streets then hanged. The pope, who kept in touch with the torturers, and the whole church had been offended. As his body swung from the gallows, it was stoned and lit on fire. His ashes were then thrown in the river. This was a learning lesson for Machiavelli.
6. Read Machiavelli
 - a. Have them go back and highlight the areas that they want in a leader
 - b. Add qualities Machiavelli would want in a leader.
 - c. **Go back to the list on the board, erase things Machiavelli wouldn't want in a leader.**
 - d. Evaluate themselves. How Machiavellian are you? How anti-machiavellian are you?
 - e. Answer questions.
 - f. Evaluate Trump.
7. Machiavelli believed that men are “ungrateful, fickle, liars and deceivers, fearful of danger and greedy for gain,” Explain the ends justify the means.
 - a. Using the goal/end of 4.0 gpa, or being a professional athlete. Draw a picture. To review, have students pick a goal and fill in different means.
8. Read article(s) about Trump??
9. Read the Zinn article???
10. Facilitate a discussion
 - a. Machiavelli's name is sometimes referred to as a synonym for evil. How accurate do you feel that assessment is?
 - b. Abraham Lincoln cited as an example of a Machiavellian leader? How did Lincoln justify his actions? To what extent do you believe he was right to act that way?
 - c. What does Machiavelli mean when he said a prince must imitate both a lion and a fox?
 - d. Are Machiavelli's ideas still relevant to political leaders today? Do you see any parallels between 15th century Italy and present national and global politics?
 - e. How would you characterize the anti-Machiavelli. Would this person be an effective leader? In what ways? In what ways not?

Begin by having students identify positions that call for leadership—from leader of a service organization to leader of a country. Other leadership positions they may think of include these:

**Spiritual leader of a group of people;
leader of spiritual leaders
Captain of an athletic team
Teacher of a class of students
Principal of a school
Famous Celebrity
Coach of an athletic team**

**President of the student body
General of an army
CEO of a corporation
Leader of a labor union
Conductor of an orchestra
Mayor of a city; governor of a state
Human Rights Activist**

Civil Rights Leader
Theater Director

Music Producer
Influencer

11. Go through [Ideal Government Lesson](#)

<http://www.discoveryeducation.com/teachers/free-lesson-plans/machiavellis-the-prince.cfm>

Leadership and Forms of Government

Introduction: In his seminal book *The Prince* (1532), Nicolo Machiavelli posed the question, “Is it better for a prince to be loved more than feared? Or is it better to be feared more than loved?” He introduced the concept of the end justifying the means. The actions of many leaders in history including Stalin, Hitler, Mussolini, Pol Pot, etc., have been labeled as “Machiavellian”. Conversely, Thomas More wrote *Utopia* (1516) in which he described ideal political arrangements on the imaginary island country of Utopia. In Utopia, there are no lawyers because of the laws' simplicity and because social gatherings are in public view, communal ownership replaces private property, men and women are educated alike, and there is almost complete religious toleration. So, what should the goals of government be? And what makes a good leader?

Directions: You will be assigned a type of leader. Complete the graphic organizer.

Make a list of skills, traits and characteristics that a follower would want the leader to have.	Make a list of skills, traits and characteristics that would help the leader get ahead, maintain power, or achieve their goals.

Read the article about US foreign policy and Machiavelli. Can you think of things the US government has done that could be considered to be Machiavellian?