**Short Research Essay: *The Prince* as “Rebirth” Writing:**

Now that you have finished your full read of Machiavelli’s masterwork, *The Prince*, your group-based, diagnostic task is to explore the piece in relation to the culture of Catholicism that pervaded the Florence in which Machiavelli lived.

This essay will help us in lots of different ways. Firstly, it will verify the content of our core text. It will also reveal collective strengths and areas of future improvement in our writing style. As well, this essay will establish our standard for formal writing citation moving forward.

As you know, Pope Clement VIII immediately condemned *The Prince* as an affront to the core truths of the Catholic Church. The book was also condemned by his successor, Pope Leo X following its publication.

Your essay will agree or disagree with the notion that the Vatican was justified in its opposition to *The Prince*. This will be your clear, single-pole thesis.

This essay will be five-paragraphs in lengths, and it requires three separate sources. One of these sources, of course, will be your graphic novel. Sources must be cited in Chicago-style format. Each body paragraph must include one integrated citation. This will also be cited in Chicago-style.

Note that this essay is a group, diagnostic essay. Its goal is to deliver vital course knowledge, and also to verify how much students already know about formal essay structure and Chicago citations. Hopefully, it’s a bit fun too.

Because this essay isn’t being submitted for marks, it does not have a formal rubric. Instead, I will be reading each one and looking for consistent areas where everyone can grow as a formal writer. These will help us create rubrics for future work and get ready for your next level of studies.

So, don’t just sit there, get to it.