

## Theme on Natural Rights, More and Machiavelli

*“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”* from the *Declaration of Independence of the United States of America*

At the beginning of the 16th century, Sir Thomas More and Nicolo Machiavelli wrote two of Western civilization’s most influential treatises on politics. Choose either More or Machiavelli and discuss how your chosen author might support, counter or qualify the natural rights in the opening from this third famous Western political text from the end of the 18th century.

**Structure:** Use a five paragraph essay structure; while you may use the opening strategy of your choice, the introductory paragraph must be in funnel format, with your thesis clearly stated at the end of the funnel.

Each of the three body paragraphs should discuss the complexities of three major pertinent points that support your thesis. Each body paragraph should develop three aspects of the a pertinent point, and include at least three quotes with citations as evidence (excerpts must be no more than 10 words maximum in length) AND also include explanation of how those excerpts further the assertions of your argument.

The concluding paragraph should be in an upside down funnel format.

**Draft:** due December 10, 2020

MUST be 1) typewritten, **double** spaced 2) strictly adhering to instructions that follow. Any paper not following directions or attempting to simply draft the essay will be returned unread.

### **Draft directions**

**Paragraph one:** this must be complete in the assigned format. Your thesis must be underlined and should contain the three ideas you’ll be discussing in the body.

**Paragraphs two through four — the body:** For each paragraph, write

- 1) your full topic sentence in support of your thesis,
- then 2) give your three points to develop the idea of your topic sentence (these should NOT be complete sentences and MUST be in informal bullet/outline form)
- 3) give a quote and citation for each point AND give a very brief phrase of explanation, not in sentence form, showing the direction of your discussion. Please note

that I want only the bare bones of your argument so both you and I can see its clarity and logic.

**Concluding paragraph:** for the draft simply state an insight you've reached upon conducting this research.

**Final:** due January 28th, 2021

**Word range:** 1200 - 1400 words

Any questions? Ask early so you have time to develop your ideas.