

Leadership Ethics Video Presentation

Length: 5-10 minutes

Purpose:

1. Practice presentational skills through video
2. Apply philosophical ideas to literary texts
3. Identify or critically evaluate students' own ethical views

Create a video discussing one issue in leadership ethics through analysis of Machiavelli, Shakespeare's *Henriad*, and your own ethical views.

You may work with one partner or alone. If you work with a partner, your work and your onscreen participation should be equal, and you will receive the same grade.

1. **Leadership Ethics Pre-Writing Exercise:** In three paragraphs of 100+ words each, answer the following questions to prepare to create your video presentation. Each student will do this individually even if working with a partner. This is low-stakes writing; you shouldn't take more than two hours to complete it.
 - a. What, for Machiavelli, is the highest good, in your opinion? How should one strive to reach it? What are the roles of reason and will in distinguishing the good and seeking it? Compare and contrast these features to one or more of the other philosophers we've read (Epicurus, Lucretius, Epictetus, Marcus Aurelius, Aristotle).
 - b. Consider Hotspur, Henry IV, or Henry V as a leader. How would you compare their approaches to politics with the Machiavellian political ethics you just outlined?
 - c. How would you define your own leadership ethics? Compare and contrast with the ethics outlined by Machiavelli in *The Prince* and with the Shakespeare character you have chosen.
2. **Your presentation should be focused.** With your partner (if you have one) choose one aspect of Machiavelli's *The Prince* that strikes you as relevant to Shakespeare's *1 Henry IV* and/or *Henry V*, and brainstorm on what that relevance is and how you can effectively teach it to the class using a video.
3. **Your presentation should raise questions and counterarguments.** Your video should also discuss your own views on this ethical topic and subject your own views to critique. You can either compare and contrast the two partners' views, or each provide a self-critique. It's okay to admit ambivalence or uncertainty about your ethical views; an honest self-examination is the goal.

4. **Create a plan for your video** including what the sequence of clips will be, what other materials (images, sets, locations, props, other participants, sound and music, etc.) you need, and how you will edit the parts of your video together.
5. **Shoot the video and edit it.**
 - a. The final product should include video, quotations from Shakespeare and Machiavelli (read aloud and/or onscreen), and clips of you talking. Optionally, it can also include animation, jokes, costumes, swordfighting, other participants, poetry or other texts – use your imagination.
 - b. You can use whatever editing software you like, but make the video look and sound polished. It shouldn't be just a video of you and your partner discussing the question.
6. Submit the video on Google Classroom by 11:59 pm on the due date.