

from THE PRINCE

COPY MASTER

Literary Analysis

ARGUMENT

An **argument** is speech or writing that expresses an opinion or position and supports it with reasons and evidence. The writer produces a claim, or position, which may be stated as a thesis. That claim is supported with reasons and evidence. A counterargument may be made to answer or disprove an opposing viewpoint.

Directions: In the first column of the chart, record evidence Machiavelli cites to support his claim that rulers should ignore moral concerns that interfere with their ability to govern. In the second and third columns tell whether the evidence is convincing and why. Then answer the question that follows.

Evidence	Is the evidence convincing?	Why?

Do you think Machiavelli presents a convincing argument? Which points in the chart strengthened or weakened the argument?