**Common Mistakes**

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**Western Civilization / Dr. Klein**

**Martin Luther, "Address to the Nobility of the German Nation" (1520), Source Reader, pgs. 108-109. -Remember citation that includes year and page numbers**

**Thesis summary: -Remember to bold face headings**

Luther attacked the powerful Church in Europe on three grounds: Its absolute power ("spiritual over temporal"); the Pope's control over scriptural, or biblical, interpretation; and the Pope's insistence that only he can summon an advisory council.

**Four specific "thesis" ideas: -Use the Numbering tool to list the ideas.**

1. Luther argued that all Christians are equally spiritual -This Idea should match the 1st Quote
2. The Pope is just as likely as any other Christian to behave poorly, even wickedly
3. Christians generally, and not only a rubber-stamp council, are obligated to punish a pope who violates scriptural teaching
4. Luther was particularly unhappy about the Church's defenses, or "walls, designed to protect the Church from criticism

**Quotations and their relationships to the thesis:**

**-Use Quotation marks. -End the Quote and put the Author and the page range in Parentheses. The period should follow the citation. See Quotation 1 (below) for example.**

1. "All Christians are truly of the spiritual estate, and there is no difference among them, save office alone" (Luther, 108). - The "Church" and its leader, the pope, is not above its faithful believers. -This Quote should match the 1st idea. Same goes for the others.
2. The Church wrongly claims, "that the Pope cannot err in matters of faith, whether he be evil or good" (Luther, 108a). - How can the Church claim control over scriptural interpretation when he, too, can (sin), and even act in evil ways?
3. "If the Pope acts contrary to the Scriptures, we are bound to stand by the Scriptures [and] to punish and to constrain him" (Luther, 108a). a faithful Christian, to preserve real Christian teaching, must punish a sinful Pope.
4. "The Romanists have ... drawn three walls round themselves, with which they have hitherto protected themselves, so that no one could reform them, whereby all Christendom has fallen terribly" (Luther, 10). Luther stands out among Church critics by challenging the Church's claim that no one can criticize it. He believed that, by challenging an errant Church, he was preserving Christianity itself.

**Historical context**

Luther's attack on the Church stirred a disenchanted Cl1ristian Europe to challenge the Church's power. His attack resulted in a new '"Protestant" version of Christianity. Machiavelli, too, from a secular perspective, exhorted leaders to assert their "will" rather than succumb to higher principles. Both Luther and Machiavelli affirmed the right to declare their independence from religious or secular authority. One result was the new standard of national sovereignty, or self- rule.

* + - Compare/ Contrast this summary to a second source; A previously completed Summary’s source. Make sure to cite the additional source (In parentheses).