

Please complete the following reading by Friday, September 25th, and complete the following questions:

*In the opening section of the Oration, Pico declares that unlike other creatures, human beings have not been assigned a fixed place in the universe. Our destiny is not determined by anything outside us. Rather, God has bestowed upon us a unique distinction: the liberty to determine the form and value our lives shall acquire.*

You are not required to read the introduction (although you might find it helpful). The full text of the Oration is included, but you are only required to read the section beginning on page 223 (the beginning), through the top of page 226. You may find that skimming through the rest of the reading might help you answer the questions. Remember, if you have trouble reading it, there are ample sources online that can help!

This assignment will be posted on Archi and must be submitted there.

1. According to Pico della Mirandola, what quality did humans alone possess? What did its possession allow them to do?
  2. How does Pico's view point to the emergence of the modern outlook?
  3. According to Pico, why are humans the most dignified creatures in all of God's creation?
  4. Throughout the work, Mirandola cites various thinkers and sources, ranging from the Bible to Greek and Roman thinkers. How do the wide variety of sources he cites speak to the nature of his Humanism?
- *The reading can be found on the class website.*