Renaissance Secularism and Humanism in Literature & Art
Take notes in chart for Notebook Assignment #2

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K0GSxSansbl
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8xSEamC-Qxo
See Rick Steves Video Tours of Florence to Intro Renaissance
New Patterns of Renaissance Thought

**Secularism** comes from the word secular, meaning “of this world”. Before the Renaissance, medieval Christian civilization had been largely concerned with faith and salvation in the afterlife. The new economic and political opportunities opening up for Western Europe in the Late Middle Ages encouraged more people to take an interest in life in this world. During the Renaissance, people started to see life on Earth as worth living for its own sake, not just as an ordeal to endure before going to heaven. The art of the period in particular exhibited this secular spirit, showing detailed and accurate scenery, anatomy, and nature. Medieval artists generally ignored such realistic aspects in their paintings which focused only on the glory of God. This is not to say that Renaissance people had lost faith in God. Religion was still the most popular theme for paintings during the Renaissance, but people were finding other things worth living for.

Definition of **secularism** in your own words:

**Humanism** is the concept that places human beings, not God or faith, as the center of attention in life. Renaissance art, which portrayed the human body as a thing of beauty in its own right, not like the people in flat 2-D medieval art whose only purpose was to celebrate the glory of God and the church. Along those lines, Renaissance philosophers and writers saw humans as intelligent creatures capable of reason (and questioning authority) rather than mindless pawns helplessly manipulated by God. Even the term for Renaissance philosophers, "humanists", shows how the focus of peoples' attention had shifted from Heaven and God to this world and human beings. These beliefs relate to the idea of **individualism**, a belief that individuals have unique abilities to share and celebrate. This belief led to artists signing their names to painting and even painting themselves into pictures. Humanism also drew its inspiration from ideals of ancient Greek and Roman civilizations.

Definition of **humanism** in your own words:
Examples of Medieval Art
Italian Renaissance Art

Rafael
Donatello
Botticelli
Michelangelo
Leonardo da Vinci
Northern Renaissance Art

Van Eyck
Dürer
Holbein
Renaissance Literature Illustrates New Patterns of Thought

Machiavelli & Castiglione