Fourteen Defining Characteristics of Fascism
1. Powerful and Continuing Nationalism

Fascist regimes make **constant** use of:

- Patriotic mottos
- Slogans
- Symbols
- Songs
- Flags
2. Disregard for Human Rights

Human rights can be ignored because of fear of enemies and the need for security. As a result, people tend to:

- look the other way
- approve of torture
- approve of long incarcerations of prisoners
- approve of executions and assassinations
3. Identification of Enemies as a Unifying Cause

People are rallied into a unifying patriotic frenzy over the need to eliminate a perceived common enemy:

- racial
- ethnic or religious minorities
- liberals
- communists
- socialists
- terrorists
4. Supremacy of the Military

- The military is given a disproportionate amount of government funding
- Soldiers and military service are glamorized

“The guarantee of German military strength!”

“Through military will, to military strength.”
5. Widespread Sexism

- The government tends to be almost exclusively male-dominated
- Traditional gender roles are made more rigid
- Divorce, abortion, and homosexuality are suppressed
6. Controlled Mass Media

- The media is directly or indirectly controlled by the government
- Censorship is very common
7. Obsession with National Security

- Fear is used as a motivational tool by the government over the masses.
8. Religion and Government are Intertwined

- Governments use the most common religion in the nation as a tool to manipulate public opinion.
- Religious messages and terminology are common from government leaders.

The German Christians enthusiastically supported Nazi propaganda, and sought to join Church and State. To further this end, they wanted to join the 28 regional churches of the German Evangelical Church into a national Reich Church. 

*Reich Bishop Ludwig Muller*
9. Corporate Power is Protected

- Mutually beneficial business/government relationship

Mussolini: “Fascism should more properly be called corporatism because it is the merger of state and corporate power.”
10. Labor Power is Suppressed

- Labor unions are seen as a huge threat to a fascist government.
- Labor unions are either severely suppressed, or are eliminated entirely.
11. Disrespect for Intellectuals and the Arts

- Open hostility to higher education
- Professors and other academics are censored, or even arrested
- Free expression in the arts and writing is openly attacked

In Germany, in 1937, there was a traveling exhibit of degenerate art intended to drum up public disdain for modern styles. Pieces were hung willy-nilly in poorly lit rooms with mocking graffiti all over the walls.
12. Obsession with Crime and Punishment

- Local police are given almost limitless power to enforce laws
- People are often willing to overlook police abuses in the name of patriotism
- Often a national police force with virtually unlimited power
13. Rampant Cronyism and Corruption

- Friends and associates appoint each other to government positions
- Officials use governmental power and authority to protect their friends from accountability
14. Fraudulent Elections

- Elections are often a complete sham
- Elections may be manipulated by smear campaigns
- Manipulation of the media to control elections
- Occasional assassination of opposition candidates
On a separate sheet of notebook paper, respond to #1 & #2

1. **Write one paragraph that answers the following:**
   Which of the 14 characteristics of fascism do you think would be **most** effective in convincing people to follow the leader of a fascist nation? Why? Use 2-3 **specific** examples.

2. **Write one paragraph that answers the following:**
   Which of the 14 characteristics of fascism do you think would be **least** effective in convincing people to follow the leader of a fascist nation? Why? Use 2-3 **specific** examples.

Staple the notebook paper to your notes & turn them in