

Journal Prompt: Renaissance Worldviews

A humanist in 1450s Florence and a teenager scrolling social media today both wonder how they fit into the world. But they would answer that question very differently.

Imagine you are a young apprentice in Renaissance Florence. You are learning from a humanist philosopher. This philosopher says that human reason and individual achievement matter more than fate or divine will alone. Write a journal entry describing a conversation between you and your grandparent. Your grandparent still holds the older medieval view. They believe a person's place in life is fixed by God and social order. Show how your beliefs differ and why ([Outcome](#), [Outcome](#)).

Where to start:

- What does your humanist teacher believe about human potential and individual worth?
- What does your grandparent believe about fate, faith and social order?
- What question or event triggers the disagreement?
- How does each of you defend your worldview?
- Do you fully reject your grandparent's beliefs, or keep parts of them?

Stretch:

Explain how this shift in thinking, multiplied across thousands of people, could change politics, art or science in Europe ([Outcome](#), [Topic](#)).