***Directions****: On the left side of the column is a quotation from Martin Luther’s 95 Theses that demonstrate the four principles of his work. Read the quote, and then translate it in the right-hand column*

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| Martin Luther’s 95 Theses | |
| 21. “Thus those indulgence preachers are in error who say that a man is forgiven from every penalty and saved by papal indulgences.” |  |
| 32. “They will be condemned eternally, together with their teachers, who believe themselves sure of their salvation because they have letters of pardon.” |  |
| 33. “Men must be on their guard against those who say that the pope's pardons are that inestimable gift of God by which man is reconciled to Him.” |  |
| 36. “Every truly repentant Christian has a right to full forgiveness of penalty and guilt, even without letters of pardon.” |  |
| 43. “Christians are to be taught that he who gives to the poor or lends to the needy does a better work than buying pardons.” |  |
| 47. “Christians are to be taught that the buying of pardons is a matter of free will, and not of commandment.” |  |
| 62. “The true treasure of the Church is the Most Holy Gospel of the glory and the grace of God.” |  |
| 66. “The treasures of the indulgences are nets with which they now fish for the riches of men.” |  |
| 67. “The indulgences which the preachers cry as the "greatest graces" are known to be truly such, in so far as they promote gain.” |  |
| 75. “To think the papal pardons so great that they could absolve a man even if he had committed an impossible sin and violated the Mother of God -- this is madness.” |  |
| 79. “To say that the cross decorated with the papal coat of arms, and set up by the indulgence preachers is equal in worth to the cross of Christ is blasphemy.” |  |
| 86. Again: -- "Why does not the pope, whose wealth is today greater than the riches of the richest, build just this one church of St. Peter with his own money, rather than with the money of poor believers?" |  |
| 94-95. “Christians should want to follow Christ even through penalties, death and hell, and thus be confident of entering into heaven through many difficulties rather than though the false security of peace.” |  |

**Glossary**

Indulgence – Forgiveness for a sin purchased from the Catholic Church

Pardon – Forgiveness for a sin

Papal – of or pertaining to the pope, the head of the Catholic Church

Condemn – To be sentenced to a particular punishment

Eternal – Forever

Blasphemy – the act or offense of speaking about God in a manner that is not holy

Repentance – To feel or express true regret for one's wrongdoing

Document Discussion Questions –

2. What does Luther say about buying pardons (indulgences)?

3. Judging from all of these, what is Luther’s opinion on the position of the pope?

4. Rather than buying pardons, people should spend their money on what?

5. Does Luther believe a Christian has to have a pardon to be forgiven?

6. What can papal pardons do (or not do) according to Martin Luther?

7. After reading all of these do you feel whether the pope had just cause to excommunicate Luther form the church?

8. What does Luther’s motivation seem to be after reading excerpts from his controversial text?