**Directions**: While Ms. Babbitt is giving the mini-lecture, ensure that you are filling in the blanks and making ***quality marginal notes!***

**Intro to Feudalism Notes**

Following the breakdown of the Roman Empire in 476CE, Western Europe entered a period of chaos known as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or the medieval period. Roman rule was replaced by a collection of Germanic tribal kingdoms that fought one another for power and territory. The first 500 years of the Medieval period are often referred to as the “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” because learning was less widespread than in Roman times and cities, travel and trade were in decline. On Thursday we are going to have a Seminar discussing if the title is accurate. During this time a system of Feudalism developed in Western Europe.

Feudalism was a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ system in which nobles were granted the use of land that legally belonged to the king. In return, the nobles agreed to give their loyalty and military services to the king.

It was based on rights and obligations. In exchange for military protection and other services, a lord, or landowner, granted land called a fief. The person receiving a fief was called a vassal. Feudalism depended on the control of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The majority of the population was made up of peasants or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ who were coerced into labor. Serfs were bound to the land. In return for their work they received \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from surrounding threats.

