Aristotle Notes “Politics”:

- Politike is the art of politics, the art of constructing the polis (the city).
  - This is going beyond what is natural, perhaps building upon nature itself.
- “Political rule is by nature rule over the free”
- He uses deduction in his arguments in the text – if this is true, then this must be true also.
- He traveled and studied over 150 cities and their constitutions.
  - He focuses on looking at the facts as opposed to Socrates or Plato’s methods.
    - Both of them do not focus on the visible world, while Aristotle focuses on the things before him.
    - Aristotle disregards dialogue and the Socratic method and instead focuses on inference and deduction.
- The village is made up of different households. Village was founded when people needed to trade with one another, as well as when people began procreating and the population of households grew.
  - Patriarchal rule in villages and households, primarily households.
    - The three rules in a household are husband and wife, master and slave, and father and kid.
- The village expands to the city when people have a need for justice and political law.
  - The city exists for the sake of living well.
    - The idea of living well is an access to more wealth (although it’s not important according to Aristotle). It’s more so that living well is accomplishing more than just sustainment and reproduction.
    - Humans have a perception of justice and politics so living well adds this dimension of politics and human nature, which pushes people further away from living as animals do.
    - Living well or living “nobly” is living according to virtue.
- “Human being is by nature a political animal” pg. 11
- Humans have speech that differentiates them from animals. This is known as logos – reasoned speech and logic.
  - It indicates what is painful and pleasant, which animals can also do, but humans can also decide what is just or unjust through voice.
    - Regardless of strength or minority, humans can voice their opinions regarding how other people are treating them and claim they want to change how things are.
    - Logos, reasoned speech, gives a justification for how things are.
      - We also need a forum or institution to enable us to exchange our reasoning with one another.
        - This does not occur in the village because there is one leader and one ruler, and the weaker just obliges by these rules.
        - The polis enables humans to use logos.
- The idea of being a “God” or a “beast” in the text represents the idea of certain people believing they do not need others to sustain themselves or understand how human nature functions.
- There are four causes according to Aristotle: the material, who makes it, and telos (and something else that I don’t know).
  - Telos means the purpose or goal or end.
    - What is the telos of people?
      - He doesn’t believe that it is to be used by other people.
      - Telos is the exercise of logos.