Reflection Questions for Demagoguery and Democracy

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1) Why do you think that Demagoguery and Democracy was chosen as the First Year Book 2019-2020 at the University of Maryland?  
After reading Patricia Roberts-Miller’s definition of demagoguery (page 33), please answer the following:

2) What person with whom you generally disagree would you think most guilty of practicing or exhibiting demagoguery as it is described in this book?

3) What person with whom you generally agree would you think most guilty of practicing or exhibiting demagoguery as it is described in this book?

4) Have you ever been in an in-person or online conversation regarding politics or other broad topics in which another person has spoken or written like a demagogue, or otherwise made it more difficult to have a constructive conversation?
   a) If so, what did they say or write, and how did you respond? Upon further reflection, and/or after reading this book, would you respond differently now?
   b) If not, how do you think you would respond? What did you learn from this book that might inform your response in future situations where you feel someone is practicing demagoguery?

5) Have you ever spoken or written in demagogic language?
   a) If so, what were the circumstances, and how did others respond? Upon further reflection, and/or after reading this book, would you speak or write differently in the future?
   c) If not, what would be the situations in which you might feel most tempted to practice demagoguery? What did you learn from this book that might change your language in such a future situation?

6) As you know, Demagoguery and Democracy is being offered to every first-year student at the University of Maryland in College Park. What do you hope would be the result of so many of your colleagues reading this book?

7) What, if anything, would you like to do this year in association with reading this book?

8) How do you think this book will most benefit you in your life and work beyond graduation?

9) Of the four things to do as described in Chapter VII, how would you prioritize the four actions from most important to least important? Which of those actions will be the easiest for you to do, and which will be the hardest?

10) What, if anything, would you like the University of Maryland to do in follow-up to offering this book as the 2019-2020 first year book?