**Enlightenment Salon Simulation**

During the 17th and 18th centuries, salons were social gatherings held by a host or hostess where educated people discussed important topics of the day. During this project you will learn in depth knowledge about a great Enlightenment thinker and their opinions and prepare to have an academic conversation on some of the most important ideas of the day.

**Directions**

1. You will choose one of the great Enlightenment thinkers from the list below. Use your textbook, class notes and any other available resources to research and become an expert on them. This will be the character you will portray during our salon.

Baron de Montesquieu Catherine the Great

Denis Diderot Frederick the Great

Jean-Jacques Rousseau John Locke

Joseph II Mary Wollstonecraft

Thomas Hobbes Voltaire

2. In addition to being an expert on your character’s biography and personal beliefs, you should be ready to discuss the following topics during the salon:

1. the definition of justice

2. the relationship of government to the individual, and vice versa

3. the role of the ruler as servant of the people, and vice versa

4. the rights possessed by the people (such as natural rights)

5. whether government is a positive good, a necessary evil, or an abomination

6. attitudes toward such specific topics as religion, social classes, education, the right to revolt, and religious wars

These were common topics of discussion at salons. You may not find a lot of information on the above topics for your character, but you should learn enough about your person to guess what they may have thought.

3. On November 30th, our classroom will be transformed into an elegant and comfortable social environment. You will join your fellow Enlightenment thinkers to discuss the above topics in character. It is perfectly okay to disagree with your fellow guests – that’s the point - as long as you are polite. Remember, you are to give the viewpoint of your character, not necessarily yourself.

**Scoring Rubric**

Your grade will be based on the following criteria:

**Portrayal of Character** – You do a good job of acting like the person you researched. You stay in character throughout the salon. You try to respond to others appropriately. You are polite and use your best manners. You are enthusiastic and participate in the salon fully. (40 points)

**Content and Conversation** – You participate in the conversations, and you are able to speak intelligently about the topics assigned at the salon. The points you make are reasonable and in character. You use evidence to support your character’s opinions when possible. (60 points)

**Enlightenment Salon Simulation Research Sheet**

Use this sheet to help you organize your research for your project. You may need extra paper.

Name of Enlightenment thinker/character: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The background information (history, family, birth date, major achievements, etc.) for my historical figure includes:

Philosophical beliefs (what were the main ideas and beliefs of your Enlightenment thinker?)

My character’s opinions on each of the following are:

1. the definition of justice
2. the relationship of government to the individual, and vice versa
3. the role of the ruler as servant of the people, and vice versa
4. the rights possessed by the people (such as natural rights)
5. whether government is a positive good, a necessary evil, or an abomination

1. attitudes toward such specific topics as religion, social classes, education, the right to

revolt, and religious wars