Enlightenment Research and Presentation Project

The Enlightenment was an intellectual movement of the upper class in Western Europe from c.1680-1790. It was spurred on by the Scientific Revolution, which challenged the basis of how people thought, and then the Age of Reason took these ideas and ran with them into the political and social arena. This movement literally changed Europe socially, politically, economically, and religiously.

Your job is to pick one of the philosophers from below; choices may not be picked twice.

**Philosophy:**
- Baron de Montesquieu
- Voltaire
- Jean Jacques Rousseau
- Thomas Hobbes
- John Locke

**Economics:**
- Francois Quesnay
- Adam Smith

**Society:**
- Cesare Beccaria
- Mary Wollstonecraft
- Moses Mendelssohn

You will be researching your philosopher over the next few days, both in class and for homework, getting information on where they are from, what they believed in, what they wrote, and how they influenced the world.

You will be teaching the class about your philosopher and their importance.

**Requirements**

- A 35-minute oral presentation in front of the class
  - this can be done as creative as you want, from an interview to you acting as your philosopher, and so on
  - you should focus on the influence of your philosopher, not the minute details of their childhood or personal life
  - time does not include questions from the audience

- You need to generate a discussion and involve the class
  - you need to come up with at least 3 questions ahead of time to stimulate discussion
  - connections to the greater events of the times and events today would be excellent ideas for discussion topics
• PowerPoint presentation
  - includes your notes on the philosopher
    - specifically where they are from, when they lived, their major works, what they believed in, and their influence on social, economic, political, and religious affairs not only in Europe, but in the world
    - must be audience-friendly (i.e. animated, easy to follow, etc.)
    - must have visuals (maps, pictures, political cartoons, etc.)
    - must have a video component (YouTube, news clip, etc.)

• You need a selection of a reading for the class to do on your philosopher
  - should be from one of their major works or an article about them and their influence (can be found online, in your textbook, or in the library)
  - you should lead the class through the reading, explaining it as you go

• You need to have at least one question to ask each presenter on their presentation
  - needs to be appropriate and relevant

This is a formal, professional presentation. Your understanding of the material, organization, preparation, and presence in front of the class should reflect that.

DUE: _____________________
Enlightenment Presentation Rubric

Student Name: _________________________________
Topic: _______________________________________

CONTENT – How well do you know your topic? How well-informed are you? How well do you make it understandable to the audience? (40 pts.)

0  10  20  30  40   ____________

PRESENTATION – How well do you present your topic? How prepared and organized are you? Do you have a confident presence in front of the class? Eye-contact and volume? Do you utilize the full 35 minutes? (25 pts.)

0  5  10  15  20  25 ____________

POWERPOINT – How organized and professional is the layout of your PowerPoint presentation? Do you have numerous and relevant visuals? Is it audience-friendly? Do you have a video component that helps the class understand your philosopher? (15 pts.)

0  5  10  15  ____________

DISCUSSION – Were you prepared with a list of questions to spark discussion? Were you able to generate thought-provoking questions? Did your questions connect not only to the time period, but to other eras and even today? Were you able to answer the audience’s questions? (10 pts.)

0  2  4  6  8  10 ____________

READING – Is your choice of a reading for the class appropriate for your topic? Is it practical? Do you explain it? (10 pts.)

0  2  4  6  8  10 ____________

TOTAL: ____________/100