Enlightenment Salon

Choose one of the following Enlightenment figures to represent in a class European salon. A salon is a gathering of people under the roof of an inspiring host, held to refine the taste and increase the knowledge of the participants through conversation. Salons are commonly associated with French literary and philosophical movements of the 17th and 18th centuries.

You must research your TWO persons, and be prepared to answer questions such as those listed below, during our discussion. Be sure to prepare your answers ahead of time, and be sure your answers are historically accurate. You must use primary sources in the salon, and you must quote your people directly. See me with questions, or if you’re having trouble locating sources.

The Cast:

*Monsieur de Pompadour: host*

Thomas Hobbes       John Locke       Jean Jacques Rousseau
Catherine the Great Joseph II       Voltaire
Frederick the Great Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Adam Smith
Mary Wollstonecraft Jonathan Swift   Denis Diderot
Sir Isaac Newton   Galileo         Immanuel Kant
Francois Quesnay     Cesare Beccaria Moses Mendelssohn
Johann Sebastian Bach Jean-Honore Fragonard Elizabeth Vigée Le Brun

Your Task:

To research your character and determine his or her positions on the issues listed below to be discussed during the salon. Not only should you know where your character stands on these issues, you should know how he or she would react in conversation to other guests of the salon. This simulation can be great if you put forth the effort!

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

6. what is the nature of man

7. what do you value? What concerns you about society?

8. attitudes towards such specific topics as religion, social classes, women, education, the right to revolt, and religious wars.

Topics to be discussed at the salon may include:

- Religion
- Religious toleration
- Economics
- Types of government
- Capital punishment
- Human nature
- Slavery
- Women’s rights
- Social contract

Requirements:

- a 1-2 minute introductory statement telling us who you are, what your story is, what your concerns are about the current state of Europe, and what your views are
  - you need to turn in a paper copy of this speech, as well
- Must ask at least 1 specific question for each other person
  - Can be questions about why they think the way they do or any other relevant question
- Must actively take part in each discussion of the topics listed above
  - Need to be able to answer questions poised from others, ask questions from your point of view, and make references to the current state of Europe and to your writings
- A nametag for your characters with your name, title, and picture that can be either worn or displayed for the roundtable discussion

How you will be graded:

There is no required written work for this assignment that needs to be turned in. You will be graded solely on your performance during the salon. During the salon, my primary role is to announce transitions to new stages of the salon and to listen to your dialogue.

Characters are supposed to discuss the six issues with those around them at the salon.
Points will be deducted if: you are found to be ignorant of your characters’ position, you are not participating, you cannot answer questions from others, etc.

If you are absent you must write a dialogue that would have occurred between two characters at the salon. Your dialogue must contain all of the issues to be discussed and it must be typed.

If your presentation does not meet standard, you will be required to write out answers to the questions below for your assigned person, and arrange to go over these questions in an interview with me—before or after school.
Enlightenment Salon Rubric

Name: ____________________

Characters: ____________________  ____________________

CONTENT – How well do you know your person’s perspective? How well-informed are you? How well do you make it understandable to the audience? (50 pts.)

0 10 20 30 40 50  ________

PRESENTATION – How well do you present your person’s views? 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 1-2 minutes in your opening statement? (20 pts.)

0  5 10 15 20  ________

COMMUNICATION – How able were you to carry on conversation with other philosophers? How well did you show a willingness to listen to other points of view and ideas? (15 pts.)

0  5 10 15  ________

UNDERSTANDING – How completely were you able to answer students’ appropriate questions about the views of your person? (15 pts.)

0  5 10 15  ________

NAMETAG – Did you have a nametag? Was it easy to read? Creatively made? Displayed? (5 pts.)

0 1 2 3 4 5  ________

MISCELLANEOUS – Did you use class time well to research your topic? (10 pts.)

0 2 4 6 8 10  ________

*EXTRA CREDIT – Were you dressed up as your character? Did you have visuals?  TOTAL: ________/115