Enlightenment Conference – A Meeting of the Minds

In this project you will be working in groups to take on the role of our historical panelists. Your group will be assigned one of the following historical figures to portray: Aristotle, Plato, Queen Elizabeth, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Baron de Montesquieu, Mary Wollstonecraft, King Louis XIV, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau. Each person in the group will have a specific role that you will assign for yourselves.

**ROLES:**

* **ACTOR** Plays the part of the historical figure being questioned by reporters and audience members during the Press Conference. Takes time to learn the ideas and personality of the historical figure. Helps others learn about the figure he or she represents. Cuts out the mask and designs a way to WEAR the mask during the Press Conference. Thinks of appropriate props and costumes to help bring the historical figure to life.
* **MINISTER OF PROPAGANDA**  Prepares group to make your historical figure “look good” during the conference. Digs up “dirt” on “enemies” of your historical figure (using biographical briefings, quotes and student handouts). Must have THREE questions prepared to ask during the Press Conference.
* **AGENT** Takes time to learn about the ideas and personality of the historical figure. Prepares an introductory speech to give at the start of the Press Conference. This speech should include the following:
  + background information on your historical figure
  + description of their ideal form of government
  + incorporate your historical figure’s original quote.

Assists the actor in answering any difficult questions during the conference.

* **INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER** Carefully examines biographical briefings, quotes and student handouts to find out which historical figures on the panel have ideas that support or oppose your group. Prepares and asks at least THREE probing questions of other panel members to expose weaknesses in their arguments.

**TASKS:**

1. Determine your role.
2. Answer the Stop and Discuss questions on the LEFT side of notebook (part of Notebook Entry #6).
3. Read your person’s quote. Re-write the quote so a 5th grader could understand it on the LEFT SIDE of your notebook (under the stop and discuss questions). Pick the best re-written quote (out of the group) and write it on your name plate (see below)
4. Create a Name Plate which includes: your historical figure’s name (large enough for it to be read from across the room), a symbol representing your historical figure’s ideas about government and a simplified version of your person’s quote.
5. Are you prepared???
   1. Rehearse by asking the Actor questions that are likely to come up during the press conference.
   2. Make sure the mask is going to fit snugly and comfortably on the Actor’s face.
   3. Make sure the Agent has an introductory speech prepared. Please include your historical figure’s **original** quote in your introduction
   4. Make sure the Minister of Propaganda and the Investigative reporter have at least 3 probing questions prepared for the panel.

Grading Guidelines:

1. **Actor**: Delivery and knowledge of material 10 individual points
2. **Investigative Reporter**: # of quality questions 10 individual points
3. **Agent:** Delivery of content and use of quote 10 individual points
4. **Minister**: # of quality questions 10 individual points
5. **Name plate/Mask/overall group effort** 15 group points **Total Score: 25**