**Classroom Salon**

**Government**

**Concept: Understand Enlightenment and identify the contribution of the philosophes.**

**Objectives:**

**1)identify the leading thinkers of the Enlightenment**

**2)Discuss the intellectual contributions of the philosophes.**

**Directions:**

**French women began to invite educated guests to their homes for witty conversation in the 1700s. These meetings in drawing rooms called *salons* became one of the key ways that Enlightenment thought spread. Guests often discussed the leading writers and thinkers of the time, and also attempted to add their own witty interpretations.**

**1)All students will be divided into Salon groups. The student must make a name card that can be used to identify them when the activity begins. Each group will have a female who will host the Salon.**

**2)The host should assign (and document on a piece of paper) each student in their salon to prepare by researching the intellectual contributions of one of the philosophes listed below.**

**3)Possible Characters:**

**a)Immanuel Kant**

**b)The Marquis de Condorcet**

**c)Rene Descartes**

**d)Madame de Pompadour**

**e)Voltaire**

**f)Denis Diderot**

**g)Lord Edward Herbert of Cherbury**

**h)Thomas Paine**

**i)Thomas Hobbes**

**j)John Locke**

**k)Jean-Jacques Rousseau**

**l)Baron de Montesquieu**

**m)Mary Wollstonecraft**

**n)Olympe de Gouges**

**4)Each character must prepare a short autobiographical paragraph so that the hostess might properly introduce them when the salon meets.**

**5)Some of the guests were nobility, but some were not. If you were educated and invited by the hostess, you were considered equal. Each person should strive to be the most interesting conversationalist. So the conversation was kind of a contest. There were some rules; some topics were taboo:**

**a)One did not speak of oneself.**

**b)One did not ask personal questions or try to embarrass others.**

**c)everyone was expected to act as a lady or gentleman.**

**6)Performance directions:**

**a)The hostess will introduce the guests and say something polite about each one.**

**b)The hostess should then begin by saying, “Has anyone read anything interesting lately?”**

**c)Each guest should try to join in the conversation when someone says something related**

**to what they have read.**

**7)Assessment:**

**a)Name Card- 5 points**

**b)Autobiographical Sketch- 10 points**

**c)Group Effectiveness- 35 points**

**d)Note: 5 point bonuses will be awarded to the student who is the most favorite philosophe**

**of the class and most witty. These will be decided for each group by a secret class ballot.**