

Enlightenment critical thinking questions and application to life today

Directions: Please respond to the following questions about the Enlightenment in complete sentences. You will need to use your Enlightenment notes to refer to. You should have at least a strong 2 sentence response to each question. (except the last question which needs 3 sentences). If you need more room to write, please use the back side of this handout. If you do not finish this in class on Monday, **it will be due on Thursday August 22nd**.

1. Why would Enlightenment philosophers want to understand the reasons why humans behave the way they do and why they form societies or groups? What benefit would that have?
2. Which do you think is harder for humans to do? Understand ideas about science or to understand the reasons why people do what they do in life? Explain your answer.
3. Why can skepticism be a very positive practice in life? Is it possible for a person to be **too skeptical** in life? Why or why not?
4. The United States today does have religious tolerance. What would be the effects that might result for people in a country who are not allowed to practice their religion?
5. The Enlightenment thinkers wanted personal liberty for others. They believed there were certain rights that the government should not be allowed to take away from someone. **List 5 key important rights that you think people should always have in life and explain why it is very important that they be allowed to keep those.**
6. Enlightenment thinkers believed in the progress of society. What are 2 different ways that American society is progressing today? Explain why. What are 2 other ways that American society is **not** progressing today?
7. Of the 5 Enlightenment ideas, (reason, skepticism, religious tolerance, personal liberty, and progress), which of these would be most important for you to have in your life? Explain **using 3 strong sentences**.