

## **Absolute Monarchs/Enlightenment Speed Salon**

During the 17th century there were two concurrent movements within Europe. One, “The Age of Enlightenment”, saw a cultural movement of intellectuals emphasizing reason and individualism rather than tradition. The other, the “Age of Absolutism”, saw powerful leaders taking complete and total control of their countries political, economic, and military power in an effort to wield unrestricted power. During this time in European history these movements helped to both strengthen and weaken their respective nations based on the success or failure of the leader or critic. For this project you will take up the mantle of leader or philosopher in an effort to better understand the political landscape of 17th century Europe.

You will first be given a historical figure to research (either a philosopher or absolute monarch) based on the topics featured on the backside of this sheet. When researching you should seek out a better understanding of your person in order to present them as historically accurate. By next class, you will be prepared to have one-on-one conversations with your fellow leaders/philosophers. The objective of this project is not only to better understand your character, but also to identify those with whom your person would be willing to spend any time with in their lifetime. You will do this in the “salon”, or an informal social gathering of writers, artists, and philosophers in 17th century Europe. Typically, a salon was a meeting place for intellectuals to discuss the ways of the world, in this case, you will be discussing the political, economic, and philosophical perspectives of your historical figure.

### To get full credit on this project you must:

1. Complete accurate and insightful research on your historical figure
2. Understand and act out their personality with use of details (and/or costumes) that defined them as a person
3. Discuss these traits (in character) with other members of the “salon”
4. Note whether or not your character would wish to “hang out” with other leaders/philosophers based on what you know about your character and their likes/dislikes
5. Maintain appropriate notes, and have sound reasoning for your conclusions.

### For Next Time: Checklist

- \_\_\_\_. Fill out a name tag
- \_\_\_\_. Should have 7 of 12 topics answered by beginning of class.
- \_\_\_\_. Students rank the topics based on what is most important to the person they are representing.
- \_\_\_\_. Utilize chart to take and organize notes on other people during conversations
- \_\_\_\_. Should have at least 3 factual reasons to agree to hang out again or not

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Per: \_\_\_\_\_

World Civ. – Speed Salon

**Leaders:**

Elizabeth I (England)  
Catherine “the Great” (Russia)  
Peter “the Great” (Russia)  
Cardinal Richelieu (France)  
Louis XIV (France)  
Frederick the Great (Prussia)

**Philosophers:**

Hobbes  
Locke  
Montesquieu  
Voltaire  
Diderot  
Rousseau  
Wollstonecraft

**Topics for research:**

1. Monetary policy toward people
2. Monetary policy toward government
3. What makes a good leader?
4. Peasants rights
5. Thoughts on foreigners
6. Women’s rights
7. Natural rights / laws
8. Separation of powers
9. Music and Arts importance
10. Human nature - good or bad?
11. Majority or minority more important?
12. Religion (beliefs, opinions regarding opposing beliefs)