**John Locke (*Two Treatises of Government)***

(John Locke was an English philosopher and physician, widely regarded as one of the most influential of Enlightenment thinkers.)

“Men being by nature all free, equal, and independent, no one can be put out of his property, and subjected to the political power of another, without his own consent, which is done by agreeing with other men to join and unite into a community for their comfortable, safe, and peaceable living one amongst another, in a secure enjoyment of their properties”

Questions:

*What is the author’s main idea?*

*The author is (background) and believes*

*What sentence from the passage best supports the author’s point of view?*

*Who is the intended audience of the reading?*

**Baron de Montesquieu (*The Spirit of Laws)***

(Baron de Montesquieu was a French judge and political philosopher.)

“In every government there are three sorts of powers. . . . By virtue of the first, the prince enacts (creates) laws . . . By the second, he makes peace or war . . . By the third, he punishes criminals, or determines the disputes that arise between individuals. . . When the legislative and executive powers are united in the same person, or in the same body of [officials], there can be no liberty, because . . . the same monarch or senate . . . [may] enact tyrannical (oppressive) laws.”

Questions:

*What is the author’s main idea?*

*The author is (background) and believes*

*What sentence from the passage best supports the author’s point of view?*

*Who is the intended audience of the reading?*

**Jean-Jacques Rousseau (*The Social Contract)***

(Jean-Jacques Rousseau was a Genevan (from Switzerland philosopher, writer and composer.)

“Since no man has any natural authority over his fellow men, and since force is not the source of right… The problem is to find a form of association which will defend and protect with the whole common force the person and goods of each . . . Each of us puts his person and all his power in common under the supreme direction of the general will.”

Questions:

*What is the author’s main idea?*

*The author is (background) and believes*

*What sentence from the passage best supports the author’s point of view?*

*Who is the intended audience of the reading?*

**Mary Wollstonecraft (*A Vindication of the Rights of Woman)***

(Mary Wollstonecraft was an English writer, philosopher, and advocate of women's rights.)

“Virtue can only flourish among equals. Women ought to have representatives, instead of being arbitrarily governed without any direct share allowed them in the deliberations of government. Make women rational creatures, and free citizens, and they will quickly become good wives; - that is, if men do not neglect the duties of husbands and fathers.”

Questions:

*What is the author’s main idea?*

*The author is (background) and believes*

*What sentence from the passage best supports the author’s point of view?*

*Who is the intended audience of the reading?*

**William Wilberforce (Speech Given to Parliament)**

(William Wilberforce was a British politician, philanthropist, and a leader of the movement to abolish the slave trade.)

“I mean not to accuse any one, but to take the shame upon myself, in common, indeed, with the whole parliament of Great Britain, for having suffered this horrid trade to be carried on under their authority. We are all guilty - we ought all to plead guilty, and not to exculpate ourselves by throwing the blame on others; What should we suppose must naturally be the consequence of our carrying on a slave trade with Africa? …. Does anyone suppose a slave trade would help their civilization? Is it not plain, that she must suffer from it?”

Questions:

*What is the author’s main idea?*

*The author is (background) and believes*

*What sentence from the passage best supports the author’s point of view?*

*Who is the intended audience of the reading?*

**Cesare Beccaria (*On Crimes and Punishment)***

(Cesare Beccaria was an Italian criminologist, jurist, philosopher, and politician)

“If someone were to say that life at hard labor is as painful as death and therefore equally cruel, I should reply that, taking all the unhappy moments of perpetual slavery together, it is perhaps even more painful, but these moments are spread out over a lifetime, and capital punishment exercises all its power in an instant.”

Questions:

*What is the author’s main idea?*

*The author is (background) and believes*

*What sentence from the passage best supports the author’s point of view?*

*Who is the intended audience of the reading?*