

Lesson Plan from [Contemporary History](#)
Lesson Plan

Contemporary History Pre-1900: Enlightenment

Length

One 45-minute period

Grade Level

High School

Learning Objectives

- Students will be able to identify Enlightenment ideas in a modern context.

[What Is the Enlightenment and How Did It Transform Politics?](#)

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[Essential Events Before 1900](#)

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[Contemporary History Pre-1900 High School Questions](#)

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[Guided Reading Handout](#)

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Homework

- Read [What is the Enlightenment and How Did It Transform Politics?](#) and complete the guided reading handout.

Class Plan

1. **(10 Minutes) Debrief Homework**, focusing in particular on reviewing and defining the five influential ideas identified in the reading:
 1. Opposition to absolute monarchy
 2. Separation of powers
 3. Liberty and individual rights
 4. Equality
 5. Free-market capitalism
2. **(20 minutes) A Look at Op-Eds:** In groups, have students peruse Op-Ed articles and identify one that argues for (or against!) one of the five influential ideas.
3. **(15 minutes) Activity:** Have each group post to a Padlet, Google Jamboard, or similar tool, where they:
 1. Include link to the op-ed article they found
 2. Identify the main argument of the op-ed

3. Identify which of the five Enlightenment ideas is being discussed
4. Support these identifications with quotations