

# Enlightenment Essay Project

## **Step 1: Choose a Question to Answer with Your Essay**

What was the Age of Enlightenment/Age of Reason and what led to this shift in thought?

Who were the prominent historical figures during the Age of Enlightenment and in what ways were they similar and/or different in their philosophies?

What impact did the Age of Enlightenment have throughout various countries on society, culture, politics, etc.?

How did the Enlightenment philosophers influence American government?

## **Step 2: Identify Sub-topics Related to Your Chosen Question**

Using your textbook, library books, research databases (see MCHS library) and internet searches, identify at least 10 sub-topics that are related to your chosen question.

## **Step 3: Research People and Ideas Related to Your Chosen Question**

Using the same resources as mentioned above, conduct extended research on the sub-topics you identified in Step 2. Look for causes and effects related to specific events. Look for influential people and their contributions.

## **Step 4: Write a Thesis Statement**

Turn your chosen essay question into a statement and expand with new (big) ideas.

## **Step 5: Write Three Topic Sentences That Support Your Thesis**

Topic sentences should draw connections and support the big ideas presented in your thesis statement.

## **Step 6: Write an Introduction That Incorporates your Thesis**

Write an introductory paragraph around your thesis statement. Tell the reader what you are going to tell them.

## **Step 7: Write a Paragraph Supporting Each of Your Topic Sentences**

Using the facts you discovered in your research as evidence, draw and present conclusions that support each of your topic sentences. Tell the reader what you promised to tell them in your introduction.

## **Step 8: Write a Conclusion Reiterating the Big Ideas**

Tell the readers again what you told them in your body paragraphs by paraphrasing.