

Triad Essay #1
History 106
Dr. Paul Werth

I have asked you to write a triad essay pertaining to the Enlightenment and the Constitution. I offer three possible triads below. You should choose ONE of them on which to write. Your essay should be around two pages in length (double-spaced, 12-point font, 1-inch margins). In general, my concern is to push you to produce an essay that is *effective* rather than long. I strongly urge you to subject your essay to several drafts, so that you can offer as much substance in your essay as possible. A length of 2 pages is not much space, so it will take some effort to use that space as effectively. Here, then, are the three possible triads:

"Glorious Revolution" English Declaration of Rights US Constitution	Thomas Hobbes John Locke Jean Jacques Rousseau	Enlightenment Absolutism US Constitution
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* Note: *For this exercise*, you may consider the Declaration of Independence to be part of the Constitution.

Remember to focus on the *connections* in each case. For example, in the first one, to what extent were the principles and ideals of the Glorious Revolution incorporated into the central documents of the American Revolution? What were those specific ideals and how are they presented in each case? In what ways was the context different in England and in the American colonies? In the second case, which propositions unite these three thinkers, and in what respects did their thought diverge? (Note that when discussing Locke in this triad, you'll probably want to focus on the *Second Treatise* more than on the *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*). In the final case, to what extent were Enlightenment ideals either more or less compatible with absolutism than with the ideas of limited government enshrined in the US Constitution? What does the historical record reveal in answer to this question? And of course you can link the three items in each case in variety of other ways not alluded to here.

In each case, be sure to provide *specific evidence* in support of the assertions that you make. In most cases this will mean citing some material from original sources. Try to select very compact and choice passages to cite, rather than large block quotes, which deprive you of the opportunity to develop your own line of thought. In citing source material, be sure that you cite the sources themselves rather than Perry's introduction and commentary (if you don't understand the distinction, then you need to see me).

Recall that general guidelines for triad essays (for use in writing all such essays) are available on the web site. You should definitely have this on hand as you begin to write. If you have any questions or concerns, I remind you that I am accessible at 895-3344 (and not only during office hours) and by e-mail: werthp@unlv.nevada.edu. Remember that claiming AFTERWARDS that you did not understand the nature of the exercise IS NOT ACCEPTABLE. If you have doubts or concerns you need to resolve them BEFORE you turn in the paper. Good luck!