

Overview:

Students will identify Enlightenment ideas in op-ed articles today.

Length:

One class

Materials:

- “What Is the Enlightenment and How Did It Transform Politics?” (World101)
- The op-ed section of a newspaper (either online or several issues in print)

Instructional Plan:

- Have students read “What Is the Enlightenment and How Did It Transform Politics?,” noting in particular the examples of Enlightenment ideas.
- Have students search the op-ed section of a newspaper and identify one article that argues for an Enlightenment idea and another that argues against one.
- Have students give a short presentation in class or write a short paragraph for each article that identifies the Enlightenment idea being supported or opposed, cites quotations from the article, and explains how those quotations support or oppose the Enlightenment idea.