

## **WHAT DID IT MEAN TO BE ENLIGHTENED??**

### Discussion Questions:

#### **“What is Enlightenment?” Immanuel Kant**

1. What does Kant mean by being “immature”?
2. What is the relationship between being “immature” and being “enlightened”?
3. Does intellectual immaturity signify a lack of intelligence?
4. What is the intellectual problem of being lazy or cowardice according to Kant?
5. What is required to become enlightened?
6. Why is religion such an issue?
7. Why, according to Kant, would rulers care more about maintaining control and denying freedom in matters of religion, but less so in the “arts and sciences”?

#### **“The Philosophe” (from Diderot’s Encyclopedia)**

1. What is the most important force of the Enlightenment?
2. What does the phrase, “He marches at night, but a torch goes on ahead” mean?
3. Look at the last two lines of paragraph 4 and the last three lines of paragraph 5. What do they both seem to be saying about the nature of the philosophe?

#### **“The System of Nature” Baron d’Holbach**

1. What does he mean that man is a “slave of fiction”?
2. What does man need to be able to remove the “barriers to the improvement of his condition” and to “disentangle him from the clouds of error”?
3. What is an “enlightened man” according to d’Holbach? How does this compare to Kant’s definition?
4. What, in d’Holbach’s writing, reflects his attitudes about and influence of, the Scientific Revolution?