Evaluating Your Participation in Reacting to the Past
(6-session game)

The following criteria will count for 50% of your participation grade. The rubric on the reverse, measuring the quality of your participation, will count for 50%.

Note: The greatest contributing factors to your grade are your consistent, timely attendance and your engagement with game expectations.

Excellent—A
- Attends and arrives on time for all game sessions
- Attends and arrives on time for all preparatory sessions
- Contributes to discussion in all six game sessions
- Contributes strategy advisories on Moodle for all six sessions (for faction members), or initiates at least four email strategies or questions with GM (for indeterminates)
- Presents required speech at the lectern

Good—B
- Attends all game sessions and is late for no more than one game session
- Is absent or late for no more than one of the preparatory sessions
- Contributes to discussion in five of the six game sessions
- Contributes strategy advisories on Moodle for five sessions (for faction members), or initiates three email strategies or questions with GM (for indeterminates)
- Presents required speech at the lectern, but it sounds like a paper rather than a speech

Fair—C
- Attends five of the six game sessions OR attends all six but is late for two
- Is absent or late for no more than two of the preparatory sessions
- Contributes to discussion in four of the six game sessions
- Contributes strategy advisories on Moodle for four sessions (for faction members); initiates two email strategies or questions with GM (for indeterminates)
- Presents required speech at the lectern, but not in a timely way

Poor—D
- Attends four of the six game sessions OR is late for three
- Is absent or late for no more than three preparatory sessions
- Contributes to discussion in three of the game sessions
- Contributes strategy advisories on Moodle for three session (for faction members), or initiates one email strategy or question with GM (for indeterminates)
- Presents required speech at the lectern, but it is clearly unprepared

Failing—
- Is absent for three of the six game sessions OR is late for four
- Is absent or late for more than three preparatory sessions
- Does not contribute to game sessions or strategy advisories
- Does not present required speech at the lectern
Write five diary entries that your character might have written on or about the following dates.

1. June 21 or June 24, 1789
2. July 15, 1789
3. August 5, 1789 (Don’t be misled by the date 8/11 in the documents. The original actions were taken on August 4, 1789.)
4. October 6, 1789
5. November 3, 1789

These entries all follow significant events at the beginning of the French Revolution. Think about how “you” might have responded to these events.

In addition, you should quote Rousseau in at least one of your entries. Point out how the action you are commenting on calls to mind the ideas of Rousseau, as expressed in his Social Contract. You should also make clear how you feel about those ideas—or, if you are indeterminate, what your questions may be about Rousseau.  

Be sure to date your entries and make reference to the event in question. Your paper, with five entries, should be 300-500 words in total.

I will use the following criteria to evaluate your diary:

1. Entries show an understanding of the events that have just happened and use sources effectively and appropriately. Note, of course, that your character knows what has just happened, but does not yet know how these events will be understood one month, one year, or 200 years later.
2. Entries show an understanding of how your character would react to these events.
3. Your use of Rousseau shows an understanding of how his work relates to the event(s) in question, and how your character would have felt about Rousseau.
4. Your diary is typed, double-spaced, and free of distracting errors.
5. Your entries are written in the first person, in a voice appropriate to your character. By voice, I mean the distinctive personality revealed in one’s writing. An 18th century aristocrat or radical revolutionary will sound different from any of us and different from each other as well.

I have posted on Moodle good models of diary entries from students playing the American Revolution game last semester. Look in the Course Documents folder.

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1 Here are some passages from the Social Contract that might be relevant to this assignment:  
Book II, Chapter 6 (on law); Book IV, Chapter 8 (on civil religion; or—from the optional readings—Book III, Chapters 3-8 (on types of government); Book III, Chapter 15 (on representation). I would suggest that events 1, 3, or 5 might be easier to connect to Rousseau’s writing than events 2 or 4.
Guidelines on Using Source Material to Support Your Arguments

Your major papers for each game need to cite original documents in support of the arguments that you make. Make those citations work for you by integrating your quotes into your argument. Here are a few ways to do that.

1. There are a few different ways to cite documents to explain or support your own thinking. If you are relying on a certain text simply as an authority, you need to know if your reader/listener accepts the text as such. Does your expected audience assume the truth of Locke? Marx? the Bible? We are often in situations with no commonly accepted authority, but in some circumstances, the argument from authority can be effective.

If you are simply using a quotation as an authoritative answer to a problem, you might put phrases like the following on either side of it:

- As the Gospel tells us, in John 21:17 … [quote] … and thus we know that we ought to…

More often, you will use quotations to bolster an argument that is open to debate. This time you may signal to your reader/listener how to understand the quote by an introductory phrase such as:

- As Locke so wisely says …
- This point is made most perceptively by Johnson when he says …
- We would do well to read what Seabury has to say on this issue. He points out for our edification …

Don’t assume that your reader/listener grasps your point without explanation. Follow your quotation with a brief summary of what it means, using some phrase such as:

- Paine’s main point here is that …
- In other words …
- The essence of Chalmers’ argument here is that …
- Seabury is trying to tell us that …

Or you may make the transition directly into your argument with a phrase like:

- Locke’s careful analysis of the state of nature in this passage helps us to understand that…
- Johnson’s outrage here at the colonists’ willful misunderstanding of their duties shows us that …
- Paine’s ringing rhetoric on the need, and yes, the duty, of Americans to separate from Great Britain …
2. You should also cite a document used by others as an example of wrong thinking. Make sure you signal to your reader/listener that the quotation you are about to cite is wrong and you are going to demonstrate that it’s wrong. You can do that by introducing the quotation with phrases like:

- “Now, some may think, as Paine argues in his Common Sense …”
- “It is misguided to think, as Chalmers suggests in his so-called ‘refutation’ of Paine …”
- “The sheer effrontery of the Loyalist argument is suggested by Seabury’s unsupported assertion that …”

How strongly you want to signal your disagreement from the start is up to you. It may depend on the kind of character you are playing, the intensity of the disagreement in the game at that point, and what you think may be most effective in winning over indeterminates. (It also may depend on how much fun you are having. There’s nothing wrong with taking pleasure in your argument.)

Regardless of how you introduce the quotation, you need to follow the quote with a transition into your argument as you explain why the person you’ve quoted is wrong. Again, don’t assume that your reader/listener grasps your point without explanation. Summarize the point made in the quote by a formula such as:

- Paine’s main point here is that …
- In other words …
- The essence of Chalmers’ argument here is that …
- Seabury is trying to tell us that …

Or you can transition directly from the quote to your argument, with a phrase like:

- Paine’s critique of monarchy—that it … — fails to recognize that …
- Chalmers’s attack on Paine in this passage is simply incoherent. Consider the points he has misunderstood …
- Seabury seems to think here … when, in fact, … We know this is true because …
Choose from your reading—either the Gamebook or Plato’s *Republic*—at least six words whose meaning you find obscure. Use a dictionary (there are good online dictionaries available, one listed below) to find an appropriate definition for each word—appropriate in that it applies to the way the word is used in that passage. Go to news.google.com to find another meaningful sentence that contains the word in a way that has the same or similar meaning. Copy and paste your sample sentence.

You will find some words that are not currently in the news. **Do not use those words.** This exercise is more valuable if you use it to learn words that are still in relatively common circulation. Give the source of your internet quotation.

Here is an example of how you should present the information for each vocabulary item:

**Gamebook p. 61** *expediency:* a regard for what is politic or advantageous rather than for what is right or just; a sense of self-interest.

“But, to paraphrase an old adage, the road to ruin is paved with the whims of political expediency.”


All of the information required can be cut and pasted. I appreciate it if you make the entire assignment consistent in font style and size.

Full credit is based on your successfully doing each of the following:

- Indicate where in the reading you found the word;
- Include the word and a definition *that matches the context* (be sure to be consistent in defining the part of speech used);
- Include a sample sentence *from the news* that illustrates the *same meaning of the word as used in the reading passage*, and makes sense standing on its own;
- Include the source for the sentence.

There are other online dictionaries you can choose from, but I recommend: