

World Humanities

What is Enlightenment? -Immanuel Kant

Read Immanuel Kant's writing on *What is Enlightenment?* and complete the following:

A. Read and annotate the article.

B. On a separate sheet of paper address the following questions in full sentences-Identify, explain, and support your answers with evidence from the text.

1. How does Kant address the question "What is enlightenment?"
2. According to Kant, what factors contribute to achieving this enlightenment?
3. How does one achieve enlightenment? What is needed to achieve enlightenment? What is the process or methods for achieving enlightenment?
4. What is the role of the individual, the public, the church and religion, and the government in progressing towards or preventing the achievement of enlightenment? Be specific for each. Do these ideas complement or contradict each other? How?
5. How does Kant respond to the question: "If it is now asked whether we at the present live an enlightened age, the answer is...?" Why? If someone posed this same question to you about today's society, how would you respond, using Kant's definition of enlightenment?
6. Compare Kant's vision of enlightenment to others' views of this term-Buddha, Confucius, Jesus and Christianity, Hindu beliefs, Judaism, Muhammad and Islam, etc. Are there similarities in the interpretation of this term and the process in achieving said enlightenment? Are there differences? How does the premise of Kant's enlightenment compare to the other's? Explain.