PARK EAST HIGH SCHOOL
Purpose, Preparation, Pride

Mr. Ott – Global History

Name: _____ Date: _____

How did Enlightenment Ideas Influence the American System of Government?

Document # 1

"People choose a government to make laws that will protect their property and freedom. Whenever the government tries to take away their property and freedom, the government has really declared war on the people. Since the government is no longer protecting the people, the people have the right to disobey the government's laws and to establish a new government that will protect their rights."

John Locke, English Enlightenment writer (1690)

Based on this document, what is the main responsibility of any government? _____

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Document #2

"Governments are formed by people to protect their rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Whenever a government attempts to take away rather than protect these rights, the people have a right to abolish or change that government. It is not only their right but their duty to throw off such a government..."

(1776) U.S Declaration of Independence

Based on this document, what responsibility do the people have to their country?

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Document #3

"In every government there should be three branches of power: the legislative (to make laws), the executive (to carry out the law) and the judiciary (to interpret the law). Without this separation of powers there would be no liberty."

-Baron Montesquieu, French Enlightenment writer

Based on this document, why should government power be separated into three different parts? _____

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Complete the following sentences.

The President of the United States _____ the laws.(Executive Branch)

The Senate and Congress _____the laws. (Legislative Branch)

The Supreme Court _____ the laws (Judicial Branch)

Document #4

"No one- not even a king-has the right to go against the will of the people as a whole. If a ruler was tyrannical and ignored the will of the people, people had the right to demand their freedom."

-Jean Rousseau, French Enlightenment Writer

Based on this document, who ultimately should make all the decisions in any society? _____

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Question: Should uneducated and illiterate people be allowed to vote? Explain your answer _____

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