**Task Statement:**

**Age of Enlightenment**

Put your cell phone away! Give me your cell phone! I’m sure you’ve heard this countless times from teachers or administrators at school. Throughout the school day you want to use your phones but are being held back by school rules. What if a study came out that using your cell phones in school actually increased your learning? What would you do with this information? Would you just let it go thinking that your school would never listen to your request? Would you bring it to the attention of your school administrators? This is an opportunity for you to change your life in school and to gain the right to use your phone in school. What will you do with that opportunity?

1. What would you do with this cell phone study? Explain what you would or would not do.

During Barack Obama’s presidential campaign he spoke of change. Candidate Obama wanted economic, political, military and social change. The people of the United States heard Obama’s change agenda and voted him President of the United States. People used reasoning and observation to conclude Obama would bring the change they were seeking. Enlightenment thinkers like Locke, Rousseau and Montesquieu wrote of governmental, societal and political change. People worldwide used their ideas to change the world around them.

Using reason and observation, Enlightenment thinkers changed the world around them The desire for change came from the lack of basic human rights. Absolute monarchies, governments with a king or queen, reigned throughout Europe. These governments exercised total control and limited the people’s rights. Each Enlightenment thinker had their own idea about how to improve society. Together their ideas persuaded the people to fight for political, economic and civil rights. Enlightenment thinkers not only influenced the people of their time but generations to follow.

Your task is to determine which Enlightenment thinker had the greatest impact on society. Which thinker brought greater freedom and expanded rights around the world? Defend your decision with information from this unit. You must write an essay defending your Enlightenment thinker and their idea.