***Activity A: The Influence of John Locke (SAS #616)***

**Part 1: John Locke and The Second Treatise on Civil Government**

1. Who was John Locke?
2. What were Locke's ideas concerning:
	* The Divine Right of Kings
	* Natural rights
	* The power to govern and the purpose of government
3. In his book *The Second Treatise on Civil Government*, what did Locke say about (the state of) equality?

**Part 2: Thomas Jefferson and the Declaration of Independence**

1. Who was Thomas Jefferson and what was his role in the drafting of the Declaration of Independence?
2. Carefully read the first two paragraphs of the Declaration of Independence. How did Jefferson use Locke's ideas? Use specific quotations from the document to show the connection between the Declaration of Independence and the ideas of John Locke.
	* Equality
	* Natural rights
	* The power to govern and the purpose of government

**Part 3: James Madison and the Constitution**

1. Who was James Madison and what was his role in the drafting of the Constitution?
2. The Preamble explains the goals and purposes of the Constitution. How did John Locke's ideas provide the basis for the Preamble?

**Part 4: John Locke's ideas today (ACADEMIC ONLY)**

1. In the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson changed John Locke's natural rights of life, liberty, and property to the "unalienable Rights" of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Jefferson's phrase appealed to American colonists as a revolutionary slogan. What do you think the natural right to pursue happiness means to people of the United States in the 21st century? Additionally, how might the issue of “natural rights” come up in the political sphere or a major election? To support your point, locate, briefly summarize, and relate Jefferson’s ideas to a news article (from within the last year). For citation, you need only provide a link to the article.

***Activity B: Modern Applications (HONORS ONLY)***

1. Find a three news articles that address issues regarding inequality in American society (ex: income, education, legal treatment, etc). For each article, write A.) a brief summary of the article, and B.) using textual evidence from the Second Treatise of Government or the Declaration of Independence, write a paragraph discussing how you think Locke or Jefferson might respond to the article. For citation, you need only provide a link to the article.