

## Master 1 : American Civilization S.1

### Understanding US Politics

#### TD 1

#### Questions on the documents

Locke

1. How does Locke's view of the state of nature differ from Hobbes's view? What does Locke believe governs people in this state?
2. What are the natural rights that Locke believes all individuals possess in the state of nature? Why are they important in his theory?
3. Why does Locke argue that people form governments through a social contract? What is the primary role of government in Locke's view?
4. What is Locke's argument for the right of people to overthrow a government, and how does this differ from Hobbes's view of authority?

J. J. Rousseau

1. How does Rousseau describe human nature in the state of nature, and how does this view differ from thinkers like Hobbes and Locke?
2. What does Rousseau mean when he says, "Man is born free, and everywhere he is in chains"? How does the social contract address this problem?
3. What is the "general will" according to Rousseau ? Why is the general will important for a just society?
4. Why does Rousseau believe that individuals must sometimes be "forced to be free"? What does this mean, and how does it relate to the general will?
5. How does Rousseau believe individuals can reconcile their personal interests (the individual will) with the common good (the general will) in a well-ordered society?

Two Stories of Democracy

6. What are the two models of democracy described by the author ?
7. Who are the thinkers they are related to ?
8. What are the characteristics of the two models, respectively ?