

## **Student Reflections on the Modern-Day Salon**

Researching and discovering how issues from almost 300 years ago are still relevant today was really interesting to learn about. Because my topic (police brutality) is so prevalent today, it felt good to be able to share knowledge about the subject, and hopefully educate people about why this issue is so important and how we can eliminate it from our society.

It was cool to see how everyone's topics intertwined with each other, and all had the common goal of change in morals = change in society.

—Leila

It was an empowering experience to research and write about a current issue that I am passionate about because, in many cases, we see things but cannot find the time to research them or express opinions about them, and there is no platform to put our thoughts out into the world.

I absolutely loved the modern-day salon; as I said earlier, it was a great way to give everyone a platform to express their ideas. —Sidra

It was incredibly interesting to dig deeper and gain knowledge on all these different modern-day topics. I did not realize until I started researching just how serious these current issues are until I continued learning more and more.

From our modern-day salon, I now understand the need for civil rights to be enunciated in society. I did not realize all of the limitations on rights and inequalities in today's society until we discussed it in detail from our research.

—Erin

I think that it's important to not learn and write about only historical things, but also topics relevant in society today. When discussions are held about topics in today's society it is often easier to discuss due to everyone having more of an opinion and knowledge about the topic. Some topics, for example, gender equality, are also relevant to not only now, but were also relevant in the past. Gender equality has been an issue and although we have come a long way, women are still not treated equally. —Ally

During my research I confirmed that my feelings about standardized tests were correct: these tests are unreliable and they narrow education to the common core rather than teaching students what is important to them and what gets them interested.

The modern-day salon was very inclusive and engaging. Going into the salon I felt my topic was not as important as other people's; however, after I saw how many people were making comments and asking questions about my topic I felt included and that my topic was now important.

—Aidan

I believe that doing the salon was worthwhile and informative especially for me, because I learned so much new information and it gives me a whole new view of the issues that have been in the news so often lately. It also was very useful for me to be informed on the specifics of the issues and current events that surround it.

The salon overall gave me the chance to present what my topic was, and the controversy behind it and also other people's topics and what they believe is the issue and solution. This salon gave me a lot of information I did not know and informed me on issues, some of which I had no idea were going on in the world. Before the salon I did not know what civil discourse was and now understand and will use it whenever I am listening to or getting ready to present my topic on any presentations in the future.

—Matty

I realized the extent to which power is abused within the prison and government systems. Researching more about this injustice made me value current event papers that connect old topics with new events.

By having an open discussion on such pertinent topics, I was able to gain new perspectives and new information on ideas I thought I knew about. —Journey

Researching these topics opened up my eyes to issues going on in the world. I knew that sex trafficking through social media existed, but I had no idea how big of an issue this is because no one is talking about it. Overall, the students in our class were surprised by other's topics, but also their own as they found there were serious issues in the world that are not talked about or on the news. —Kate

Writing about a current issue in history class, I saw how certain societal themes are present in all time periods and learning about how they presented themselves in the past will help us determine how to face them in the present.

The modern day salon acted much like a conversation, and I saw it as necessary in order to gain knowledge on issues facing our world today and varying viewpoints. —Grace

Researching and writing about an issue that is prevalent in society today is very captivating. Most of the issues discussed see little time in the news due to politics. Being able to learn off of the research I did as well as the research of others was very interesting. Being able to explain the reasoning behind issues that pertain to your lifetime and being able to take a side on that same issue makes class discussion intriguing. During the salon, you are able to hear the ideas and perspectives of classmates on current issues that are seldom heard in a classroom setting. Overall, it was a very positive and enlightening experience. —David

By researching a current event in history class, I realized the importance of learning about history; although some people believe it is irrelevant today, many current issues are related to ones from the past. Because many current issues largely divide the population, civil discourse is necessary so people can see each other's opinions without being distracted by their own personal beliefs. —Jane

It was fascinating to research modern topics in history class as I enjoyed learning about topics that are directly affecting modern life rather than events from long ago that influenced it.

Civil discourse is a fantastic subject for learning as it is a great tool for the advancement of society, the promotion of deep thinking and debate, and the general improvement of our political system. Unfortunately, because of divisive issues and widening rifts between political groups, civil discourse is far less prevalent today than it was in the time of the philosophes.

—Oliver

I think researching and writing an essay on a current issue was a very eye-opening experience. For my topic, I was surprised and disappointed that genocides are still being carried out today and no one talks

about them. Millions of people's voices are silenced and no one acknowledges it. The assignment of researching a current event was a good experience because it showed us that ideologies from hundreds of years ago in Europe can still be applied and looked at when dealing with modern-day issues in America.

I think modern-day salons are a really good way to spread awareness and knowledge on certain topics that people may not have known about before. I noticed that a common theme throughout our Enlightenment salon is the idea of equality for all genders and races. Civil discourse is a very important idea that many people tend to overlook. Nowadays everyone is so steadfast in their efforts and it's very hard to convince someone or at least voice your opinion and it's sad to see that debates have come to that.

—Jovanna

Thoroughly researching a current event topic revealed so many different aspects that news stations don't cover. It also gave me a better understanding of my topic.

It was an eye-opening experience to see how so many current topics were interconnected and related to one another. Our incorporation of civil discourse in the conversation helped people feel comfortable enough to express their true thoughts and opinions.

—Judith