



Salons in Action 2.0

When we reflect on the role of salons in eighteenth-century Europe, we see that they provided space for peaceful debate for the revolutionary thinkers of the Enlightenment. These philosophers were given space to present their ideas on ending injustice and creating a more inclusive civil society. One of the loftier goals of social media is to create a digital civil society filled with debate and exposure to reformist ideas to get us there. Sound familiar? Although the tools differ, the goal remains the same: creating a fair society.

Creating strong institutions in an environment of peace and justice requires a safe space to debate the ways and means imagined for improving civil society. In the eighteenth century, this took place in salons, and now, at times, it takes place on social media. The salons provided a space to challenge injustice through peaceful debate, and pamphlets were printed and distributed to reach a wider audience. The salons were reserved for the upper echelon of society, whose goals included participating in the redistribution of wealth and forging a just civil society.

What if you could read those pamphlets and listen to the debates today? In this week's Maker Zone, you and your group will recreate an eighteenth-century salon and print and distribute a pamphlet with your vision for a better society.

DO



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In this Maker, you will work in a group to create a Parisian salon for intellectual debate. In the style of the Enlightenment, you'll also create a pamphlet expressing your ideas about a topic important to you and your school community.

1. Choose a topic to present in the salon and in the pamphlet.
2. Use the tools in the lab to create your salon and design your pamphlet.
3. Make copies of your pamphlet to distribute to the other groups.
4. Practice your salon presentation.
5. Dress appropriately for the salon presentation.



01 Present!

Once your Maker is done, set up your salon and have copies (physical or digital) available to distribute to classmates.



02 Discuss!

Present your salon and the intellectual discussion you practiced live, or create a short video to share with the class. Take notes about each salon and pamphlet. Then, get together in a group of four and discuss the questions.

- › Which salon was the most interesting?
- › Which discussion or pamphlet was the most thought-provoking?



03 Get Informed!

Learn about different ways activists communicate with the public today.



04 Take It on the Road!

With the help of your teacher, create a school event to display the salons and the revolutionary ideas they present either as a live event or through videos.

