

Warm-up

Begin the session with a competition. First, have students work in groups to list as many Enlightenment thinkers, ideas, and philosophies as possible in three minutes. Then, have groups share their information with the whole class. If you think your students will struggle with this warm-up, create a list of thinkers, ideas, and philosophies before the class instead. Then, have students match the thinkers to their ideas.

Teaching Tip

For Exercise 4

First, have students identify which period's revolutionary ideas are best communicated and why. Then, have other groups ask follow-up questions. For example: 1. *Why do you believe this is true?* 2. *What impact does technology have on the effectiveness of communication?* Finally, ask volunteers to share their conclusions with the rest of the class.

Differentiation Strategy

For Exercise 3

Go to the Differentiation Strategies Bank and adapt this exercise using Strategy 6.

Flexi Exercises

(To adjust to students' needs, you can either use or not the activities below)

Exercise 1



Social Studies

How did subversive ideas gain traction in the Enlightenment?

01 With a classmate, discuss the questions.

1. What's an example of a subversive idea you've heard?
2. Where did you hear about it?
3. How many people do you think know about it?

02 Read "But Did It Go Viral?" and check (✓) the topics the students discuss.

1. The professor linked the Enlightenment and today.
2. Pamphlets were printed in color to be more interesting.
3. Salons and pamphlets were used to disseminate revolutionary ideas.
4. The people who attended the salons were interested in expanding their minds.
5. Tiktok is addictive.



03 Read the text again. Write a summary paragraph describing the similarities between the salons and pamphlets of the Enlightenment and social media today.



But Did It Go Viral?

Student 1: Help! I was distracted by riveting, life-changing TikToks and didn't attend class. Could you help me catch up? I didn't start watching until I realized I'd missed the class.

Student 2: Ironically, the topic has a social media component, though it's connected to the Enlightenment.

Student 3: It was an exceptionally interesting class because Professor Vingaard argued that the pamphlets and salons of the Enlightenment, which were used to question the **status quo** and provide venues for intellectuals, artists, and academics to present and debate their revolutionary ideas, could be seen as the precursor to social media.

Student 1: What? I never heard a more interesting argument come from a social studies class! Tell me more!

Student 2: During this period, revolutionary **philosophers** like Voltaire used pamphlets filled with short, easily shared, thought-provoking ideas because pamphlets were passed person-to-person, not through traditional channels, and discussed and debated freely and fast, like today's social media trending topics or memes.

Student 1: So, pamphlets were the revolutionary thinkers' strategy to go viral?

Student 3: Not only that, but the salons also acted like live podcasts or live streams, where great thinkers or influencers could be heard by a few fortunate souls eager to listen to and absorb the revolutionary ideas, but they would also share them with their friends and family—like an old-fashioned repost—creating a groundswell of public support as their ideas flowed through the community.

Student 1: In a nutshell, the tools are new, but the **subversive** use of forward-thinking communication channels to disseminate their ideas, question the **status quo**, and create alternative ways of thinking goes back to the eighteenth century. I can't help but wonder what Rousseau would have thought about the revolutionary TikToks I was watching today!

04 Share your summary with two classmates. Then, discuss which period communicated revolutionary ideas more effectively and why.

Language Structures and Functions Tip

For Exercise 6

First, model the exercise with an example sentence and elicit the best steps to complete the task. Then, if appropriate for your class, elicit the different types of inversions and a few examples. Have students use this scaffolding as needed while completing the exercise. To make the exercise more challenging, turn it into a competition, asking students to work in small groups or pairs to generate sentences. Next, have each group read one sentence aloud or write it on a digital or physical whiteboard, and have the other groups identify whether it is correct. Afterward, give each group one point for every correct sentence from the exercise. The group with the most points wins. Finally, if time allows and you deem necessary, review the grammar point in more detail.

Teaching Tip

For Exercise 8

First, extend the exercise by posting the pamphlets around the room. Next, have half the students stand with their pamphlets and answer questions from others, and then ask them to change roles. Finally, close the exercise by eliciting information about the most effective, provocative pamphlets students found.

Differentiation Strategy

For Exercise 7

Go to the Differentiation Strategies Bank and adapt this exercise using Strategy 7.

Wrap-up

First, close the session by having students complete these two statements: *Pamphlets were ... / Social media is ...* to compare their effectiveness and efficiency to disseminate ideas that challenge the status quo. Then, have students complete the sentences individually. Finally, students will share their answers in a small group.

Flexi Exercises

(To adjust to students' needs, you can either use or not the activities below)

Exercise 5

05 Correct one error in each sentence.

- Only not did Enlightenment salons provide a space for intellectual debate, but they also empowered individuals—especially women—to shape public discourse.

Not only

- Seldom has ideas traveled so widely and rapidly as they did through pamphlets in the eighteenth century—until the rise of modern social media.

have

- In only the informal gatherings of salons could revolutionary thoughts be exchanged so freely—much like today's online forums where unconventional perspectives often find their first audience.

Only in

- So significant were the pamphlet that once circulated that the elite feared them.

pamphlets

07 Create a dialogue about salons, pamphlets, and TikTok without inversions. Exchange dialogues with another pair. Recreate the dialogues with inversions and perform them.

Answers will vary.

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06 Add inversions to the sentences.

Possible answers

- Enlightenment salons played an important role in spreading new ideas.

So important was the role of Enlightenment salons that they became hubs for the spread of new ideas.

- Pamphlets allowed writers to challenge powerful institutions.

Only through pamphlets could writers effectively challenge powerful institutions.

- Ideas are now shared quickly and widely on social media platforms.

Rarely have ideas spread as quickly and widely as they do through social media platforms today.

- Radical thinkers found few opportunities to express themselves publicly.

Seldom did radical thinkers have opportunities to express themselves publicly.

08 Create a pamphlet about a topic that interests you. Work with a classmate. Then, create a digital or paper copy to share with your classmates. Follow the instructions.

- Choose a topic.
- Create a design.
- Write the text.
- Add images to the text.
- Share your pamphlet with your classmates.

