

Salon

The salon will take place from 4:15 PM to 5:15 PM on Tuesday 5/5 in our normal classroom. It will be graded pass/fail. In this assignment sheet, I'll explain what will happen, and also explain why we are doing this, as this is a somewhat unusual sort of activity.

During the 17th and 18th centuries in Europe, experts would gather to discuss various literary and philosophical themes. We're going to recreate this, with you all as the experts. I'll bring food to share and dress up, and you are welcome, though not required, to do likewise.

During the first part of the activity (which will take most of the time), you will mingle with your classmates, telling them about your paper and learning about theirs. I would encourage you to keep to groups of four or fewer, as I've found that larger groups tend to become unwieldy.

During the second part (which will take five or ten minutes), you will briefly write answers to the following questions (I'll provide paper):

1. Tell me something about some philosophical topics you learned about.
2. Are there new questions that your peers raised about your topic you hadn't thought about?
3. After talking with your peers, would you alter your main points or arguments at all? If so, how?
4. Were there parts of your topic that were harder to explain than you anticipated?

Here are some reasons I'm doing this activity:

- I thought it would be nice for you to get to hear what your peers wrote about and to share what you had written about.

- You haven't had much practice in this class explaining things where you're an expert and others know almost nothing about the topic, so I thought this would be good practice.