

Name:

Section:

Berkeley, John Locke, Leibniz and Voltaire questions assignment

These are the questions we will be discussing during our reading of ALHOP chapters 15 and 16 (Berkeley + John Locke, Leibniz + Voltaire). You will write down or type your answers to these questions while we read the chapters on Monday May 4 to Friday May 8. Once we are finished with the reading and have answered all of the questions, you will then submit all of your answers completed in one PDF document through Archi.

Chapter 15, “The Elephant in the Room” (George Berkeley and John Locke)

1. According to Berkeley, what happens to things when no one is observing them?

2. Describe what Berkeley said about the existence of objects outside of our minds.

3. Describe what Berkeley is “sometimes described as”.

4. According to Locke, when you see an object (such as an elephant), what are you really ‘seeing’?

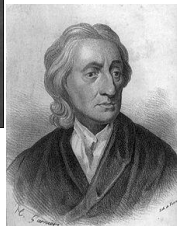
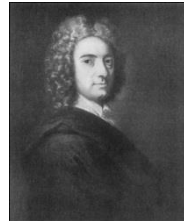
5. What does it mean when the text refers to Locke as a “realist”?

6. Describe Berkeley’s idea of the world/reality.

7. How does Berkeley guarantee that ideas continue to exist when no one is perceiving them?

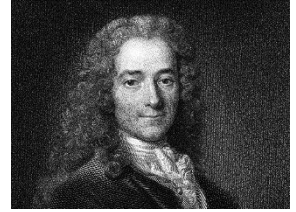
8. What is the main difference between Berkeley and Locke?

9. What do Berkeley and Descartes have in common?
(for this one the answer is NOT in the reading, you have to think of it)



Chapter 16, "The Best of All Possible Worlds?" (Leibniz and Voltaire)

10. Describe Leibniz's "Principle of Sufficient Reason".



11. What was Voltaire's attitude towards philosophy?

12. How does the character Dr. Pangloss (in Voltaire's book "Candide") represent Leibniz?

13. What historical event (and personal experience) inspired Leibniz to write "Candide", AND WHY?

14. In the end of the book "Candide", what does the main character learn (i.e., the moral of the story)?

15. Although Voltaire is mainly known for writing the book "Candide", and is not known as a philosopher formally, we could argue that the lesson he conveys in "Candide" is a philosophical one.

From all of the philosophers that you have learned about, which would you say Voltaire is most similar to, AND WHY?