



Prompt 1

Would adherence to Franklin's virtues foster good citizenship? Specifically identify which of his virtues are most relevant for citizenship and explain why. Would you add any additional virtues in order to promote good citizenship? Would you remove or revise any of his virtues in order to promote good citizenship? Would these virtues make good human beings? Are there any differences in which virtues would make good citizens, and which good human beings?

Group 1 Response:

Group 2 Response:

Group 3 Response:

Group 4 Response:

Group 5 Response:

Group 6 Response:



Prompt 2

What connections do you see between Franklin's selected virtues and his Puritan upbringing? Be specific. Which Puritan values seem to be reflected in his choices? Explain. Do any of his virtues seem to be in conflict or tension with Puritan values?

Group 1 Response:

Group 2 Response:

Group 3 Response:

Group 4 Response:

Group 5 Response:

Group 6 Response:

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Prompt 3

Evaluate Franklin's process. How will he work to master these 13 virtues? Why focus on one at a time? What is his process for recording his progress, and what is the purpose of this recording? What do his decisions about procedure/process reveal about his understanding of human nature? Would you suggest any changes to his process?

Group 1 Response:

Group 2 Response:

Group 3 Response:

Group 4 Response:

Group 5 Response:

Group 6 Response:

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Prompt 4

Franklin says that he acquired the “appearance” rather than the “reality” of humility. He suggests that it is worthwhile to cultivate the appearance of virtue in such cases, even when there is no sincere internalization of the virtue. Do you agree? Is it beneficial to feign a virtue? In practical terms? In moral terms? Can this practice improve a person? Does it make him/her a hypocrite? What tone does Franklin adopt in discussing his own pride?

Group 1 Response:

Group 2 Response:

Group 3 Response:

Group 4 Response:

Group 5 Response:

Group 6 Response:



Prompt 5

Do Franklin's virtues appear to have anything in common? If so, what? Can we generalize at all about his 13 selections? Do you see any connections between the different virtues? Do there seem to be any outliers that make surprising additions to the group, or are they all of a similar kind?

Group 1 Response:

Group 2 Response:

Group 3 Response:

Group 4 Response:

Group 5 Response:

Group 6 Response:

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Prompt 6

Franklin initiated this project in his early 20s and writes about it here in his late 70s. Does he seem to have any greater perspective on the project from his later vantage point? To what extent does he deem the project a worthwhile success? Does he still believe in the possibility of achieving moral perfection? What seems to be his purpose in articulating the details of his project?

Group 1 Response:

Group 2 Response:

Group 3 Response:

Group 4 Response:

Group 5 Response:

Group 6 Response: