

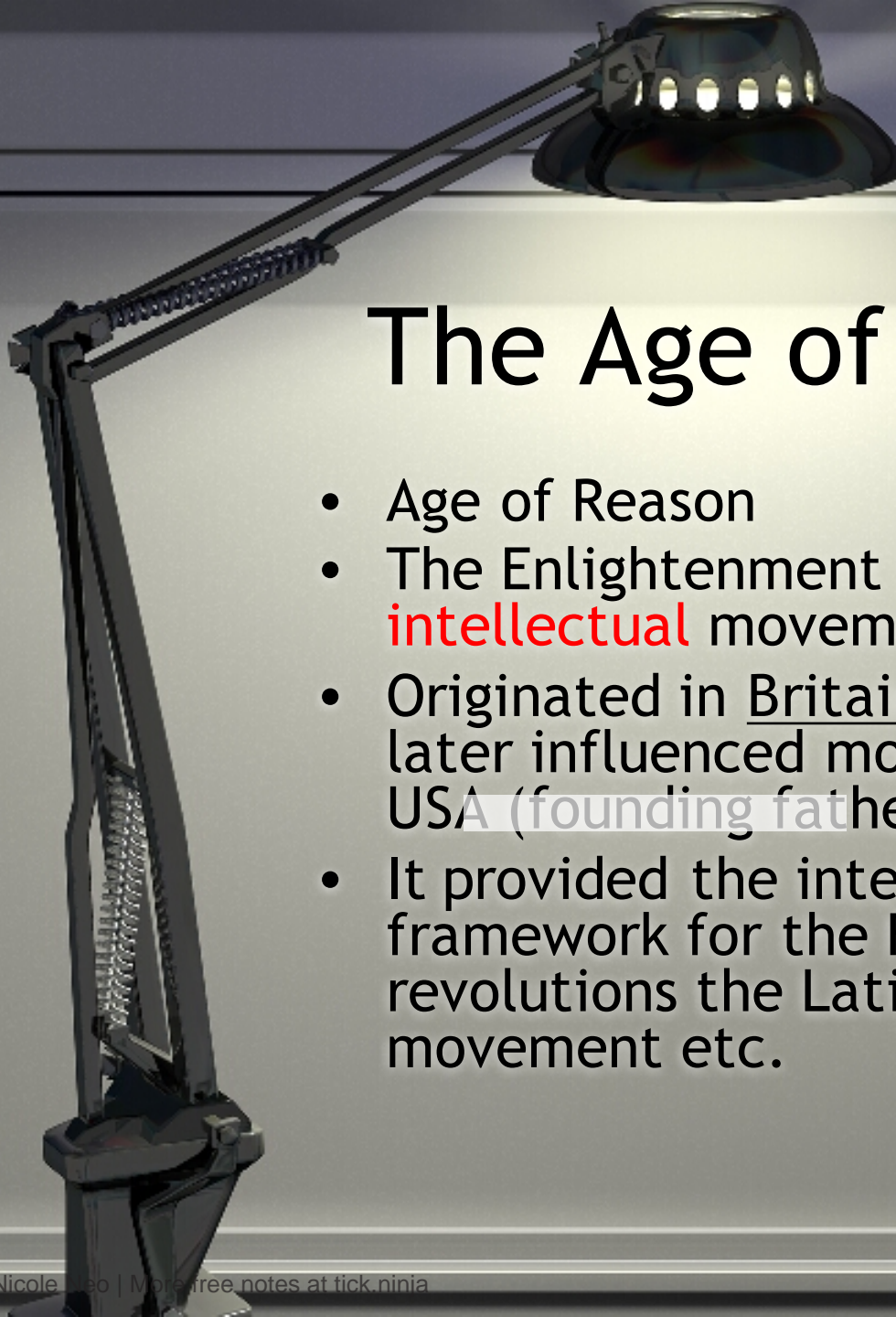
The French Revolution and the Age of Enlightenment





Age of Enlightenment

- What was the age of Enlightenment?
- Who were the main philosophes? What were their main ideas?
- How were the ideas of Enlightenment spread through France? How would the ideas of Enlightenment affect each of the 3 Estates?
- How important was the American Revolutionary War in spreading the ideas of Enlightenment?
- What role did the Enlightenment (ideology) play in the French Revolution?




The Age of Enlightenment

- Age of Reason
- The Enlightenment was a **philosophical** and **intellectual** movement during the 17 & 18th c.
- Originated in Britain, France and Germany, it later influenced most of Europe as well as the USA (founding fathers)
- It provided the intellectual and ideological framework for the French, American, Greek revolutions the Latin American Independence movement etc.



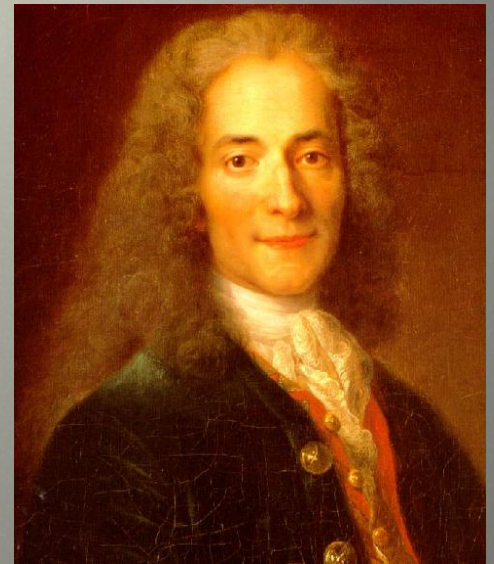
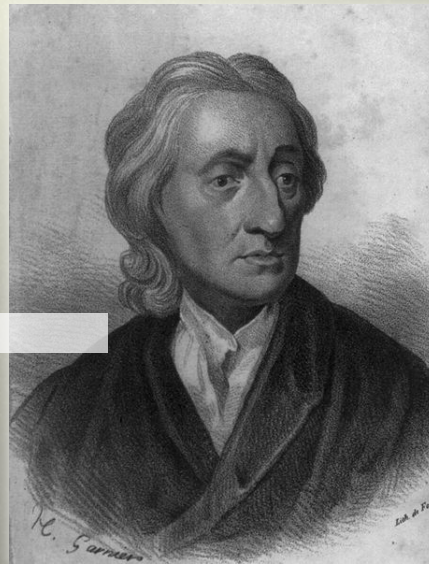
The Philosophes

Background to their ideas

- 
- List as many philosophes as you know during the 18th century.
-



Who are they ?





The Enlightenment

- The 17th and 18th century produced several varied currents of thought.
- There were some recurrent ideas that were more dominant though:
 - A rational and scientific approach to religious, social, political, and economic issues promoted a secular view of the world and a general sense of progress and perfectibility.

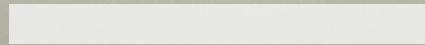


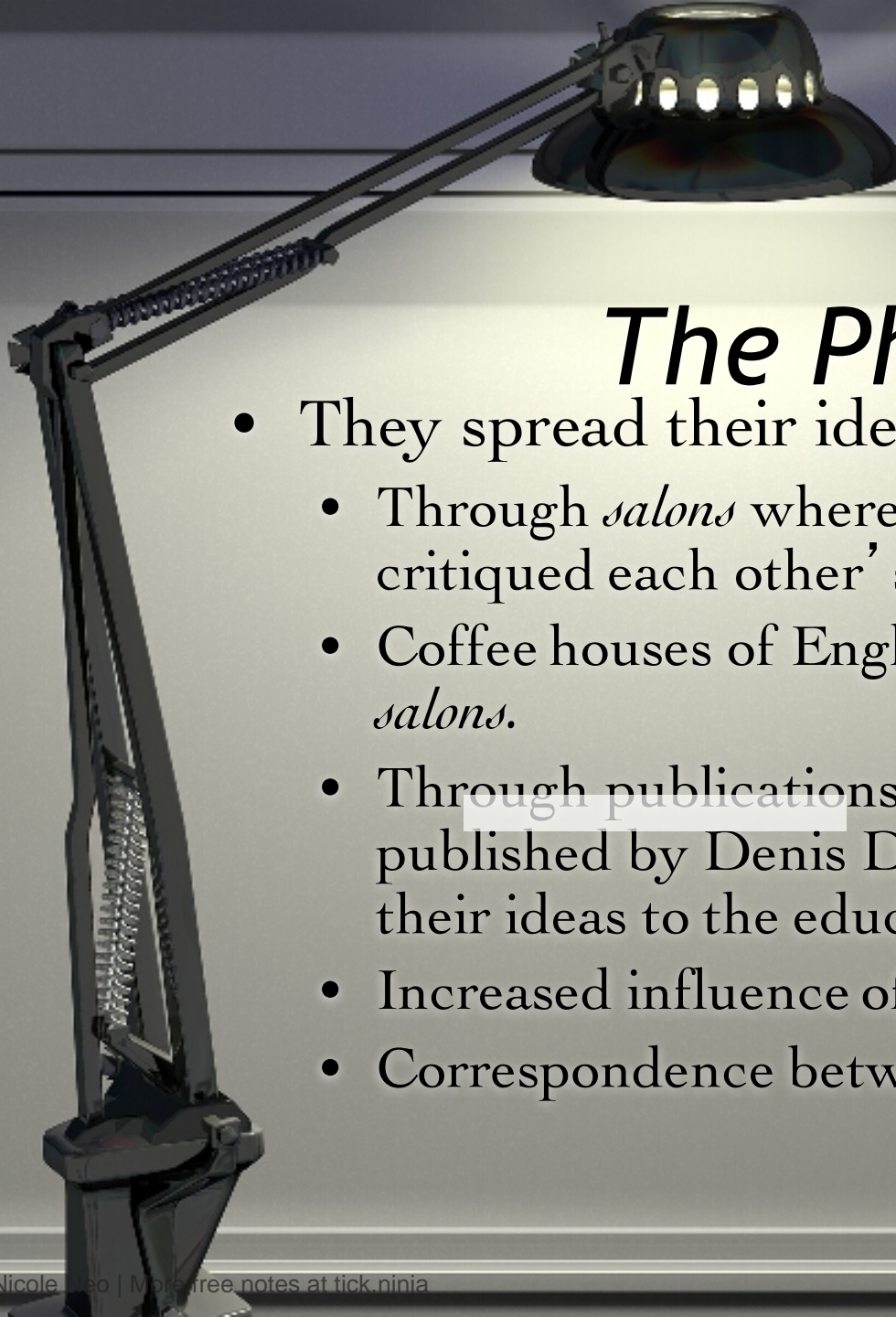
The Philosophes

- The chief champions of these concepts were the *Philosophes*.
 - They popularized and spread the new ideas for the general reading public.
- They had great faith in rationality as a means to discover and to act upon universally valid principles governing humanity, nature and society.



How were the ideas of Enlightenment spread through France?





The Philosophes

- They spread their ideas in a variety of manners.
 - Through *salons* where they shared their ideas, and critiqued each other's writing.
 - Coffee houses of England served same purpose as *salons*.
 - Through publications such as *The Encyclopédie* published by Denis Diderot, they were able to spread their ideas to the educated elite.
 - Increased influence of printing press.
 - Correspondence between *philosophes*

The Philosophes

- Paris salons were different from the all-male literary circles as they were predominantly dominated by women.
- The salons were run by aristocratic or bourgeoisie women and hosted in their homes.
- They also served as mentors and patrons to many of the philosophes.





The Philosophes

- To the Frenchwomen of the 17th and 18th centuries of the aristocracy and bourgeoisie, the *salon* served as school of higher education.
- Since women of this age did not aspire to nor have careers, the *salon* offered this and more.



The Philosophes

- Some *salonnières* became as renowned as the philosophers and writers who graced their salons.

-
- The key to running a successful and respected salon was a combination of wit, charm and intellect.

The Philosophes





The Philosophes

"The true division of humanity is this: the
luminous and the dark.

To diminish the number of the dark, to
increase the number of the luminous,
behold the aim.

This is why we cry: education, knowledge! to
learn to read is to kindle a fire...."

Victor Hugo, *Les Misérables*



The Spread of Ideas

- Although Guttenberg had first invented the movable type press in 1436, it was only in the 18th century where publishing really takes off.
- By 1750s, the trend of publishing spreads across Europe.
 - Newspapers sprout, but are heavily censored.
 - Introduction of *Journals* as entertainment magazine, supporting intellectual and political ideas.
- By 1780s, public libraries emerge with 18 in Paris open to general public.



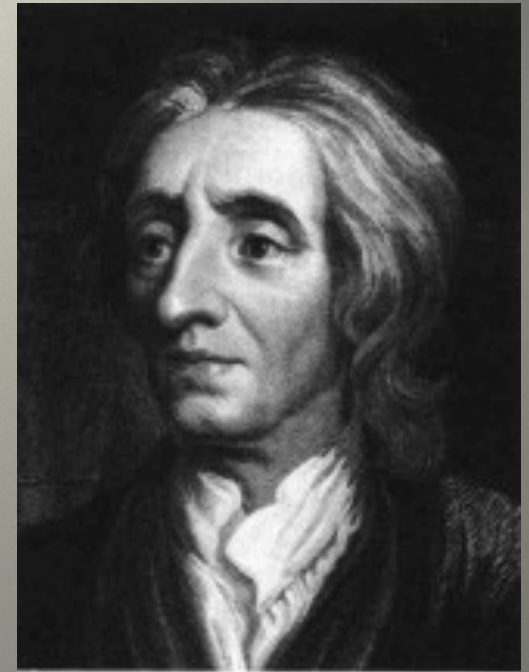
The Philosophes

- There wasn't any one single *philosophe* who influenced the French Revolution. We need to consider their overall impact.
- We shall only examine a few of the philosophes and their ideas.
 - John Locke
 - Voltaire
 - Rousseau



John Locke

- Founder of British empiricism
 - Believed that all knowledge comes from experience.
- Left England for France in 1675, where he met French leaders in science and philosophy.
- Primary works include *Essay Concerning Human Understanding* and *Two Treatises On Civil Government*.



1632 - 1704



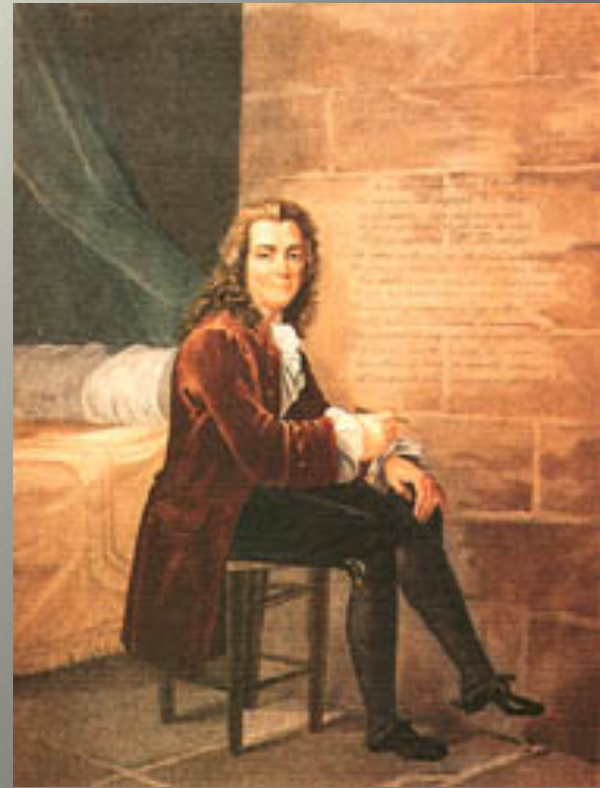
John Locke

- His work attempts to understand the very nature of humans and the society around us
 - “The consent of the people is the sole basis of a government's authority. Governments have no other duties beyond those for which they were first instituted: the preservation of life, liberty and property.”
- Rebellion was justified, if used to counter the arbitrary or despotic use of power by a ruler
- The governed retain their individual rights, and sovereignty ultimately remains with the people
- The governed retain a moral right to overthrow the government if it is ineffectual/tyrannical



Voltaire

- Imprisoned in the Bastille first in 1717 for insults to the regent and again in 1726 for making fun of a young nobleman.
 - Only released the second time on condition that he left for England.
- His experience in France left a deep and bitter impression on him, and he struggled subsequently against the injustices of the judicial system.



1694 - 1778



Voltaire

- In England, he was impressed by the ideas of Newton and Locke.
- Highly intelligent, he was not only a philosopher and writer, he was also a shrewd businessman and amassed a fortune through his business dealings.
- His key works include *Candide* and *The Dictionnaire Philosophique*.



1694 - 1778



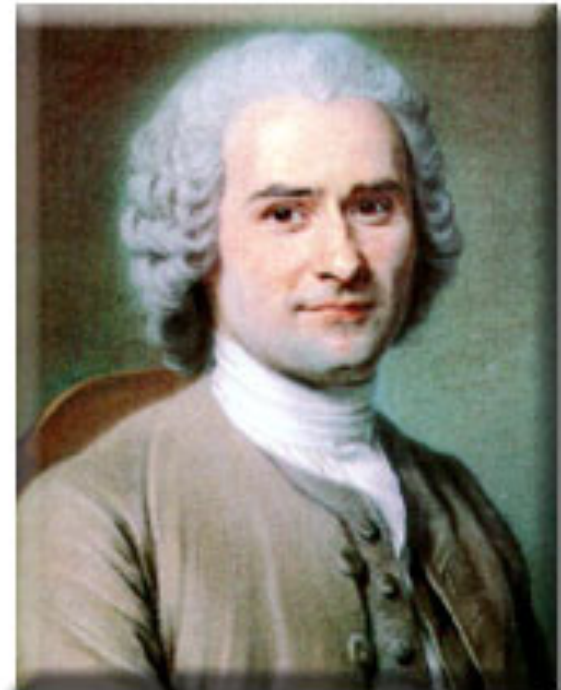
Voltaire

- French Enlightenment writer
- Advocated religious and political liberty, and denounced the hypocrisies and injustices of the *ancien régime*
- Voltaire distrusted democracy, which he saw as propagating idiocy to the masses.
- He essentially believed *enlightened despotism* to be the key to progress and change
- His admiration for British culture and politics became a stinging critique of France



Jean-Jacques Rousseau

- Born in Geneva, he started out at 16 to explore the world.
- Went to Paris in 1742 and became acquainted with Denis Diderot who published the hugely influential *Encyclopédie*.
- Rousseau was independent-minded and was critical of many things.
 - Led to his falling out with Diderot.



1712-1778

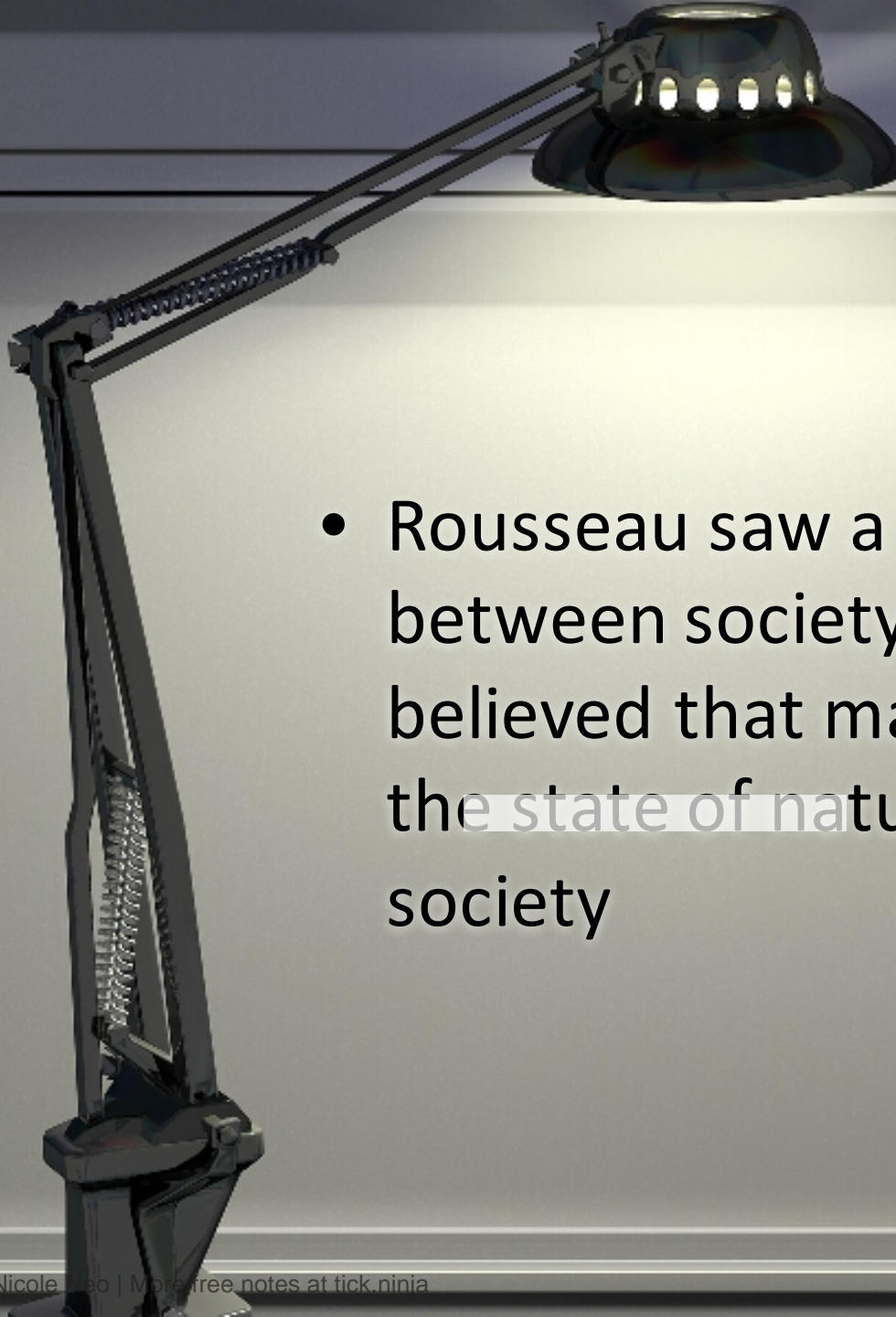


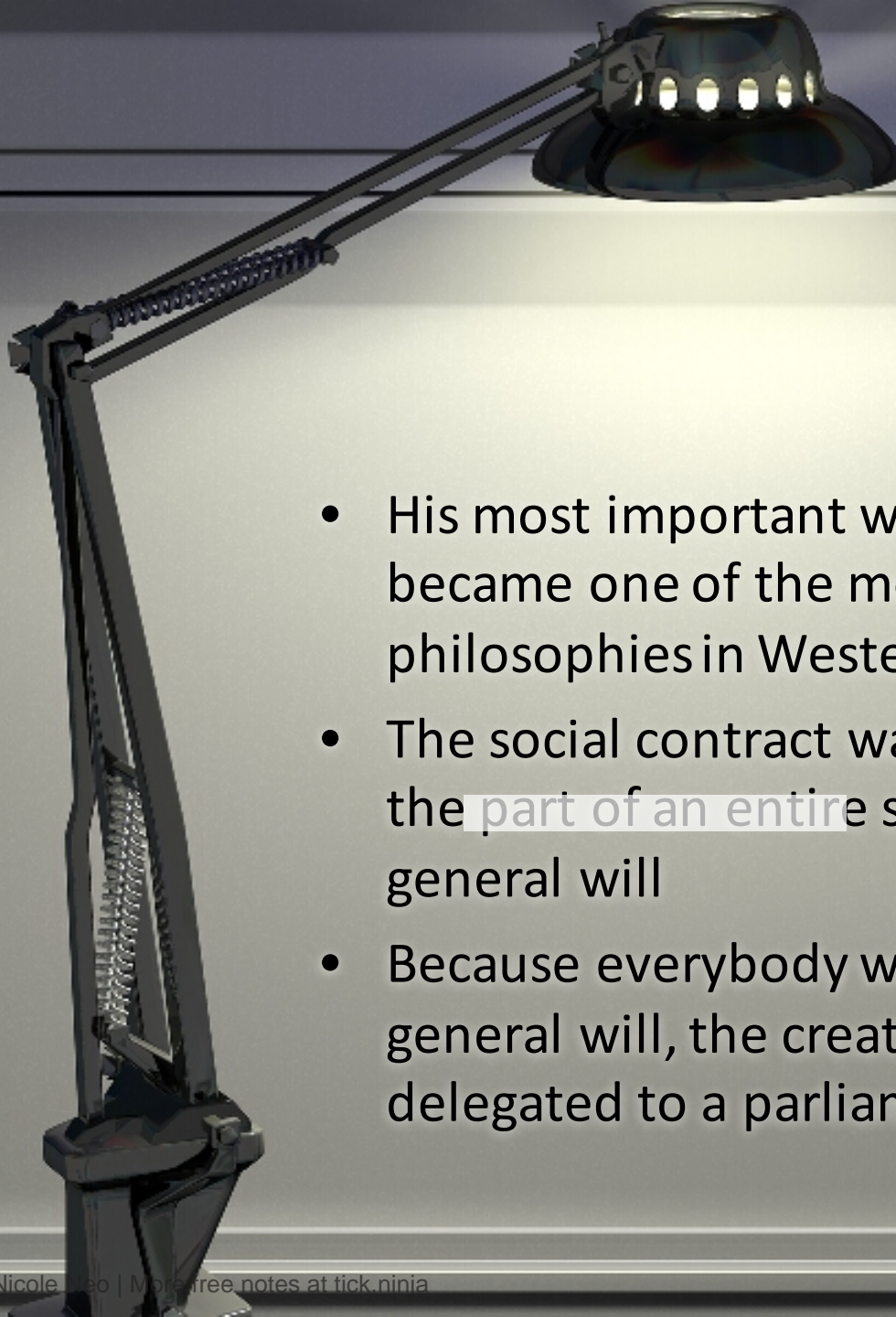
Jean-Jacques Rousseau

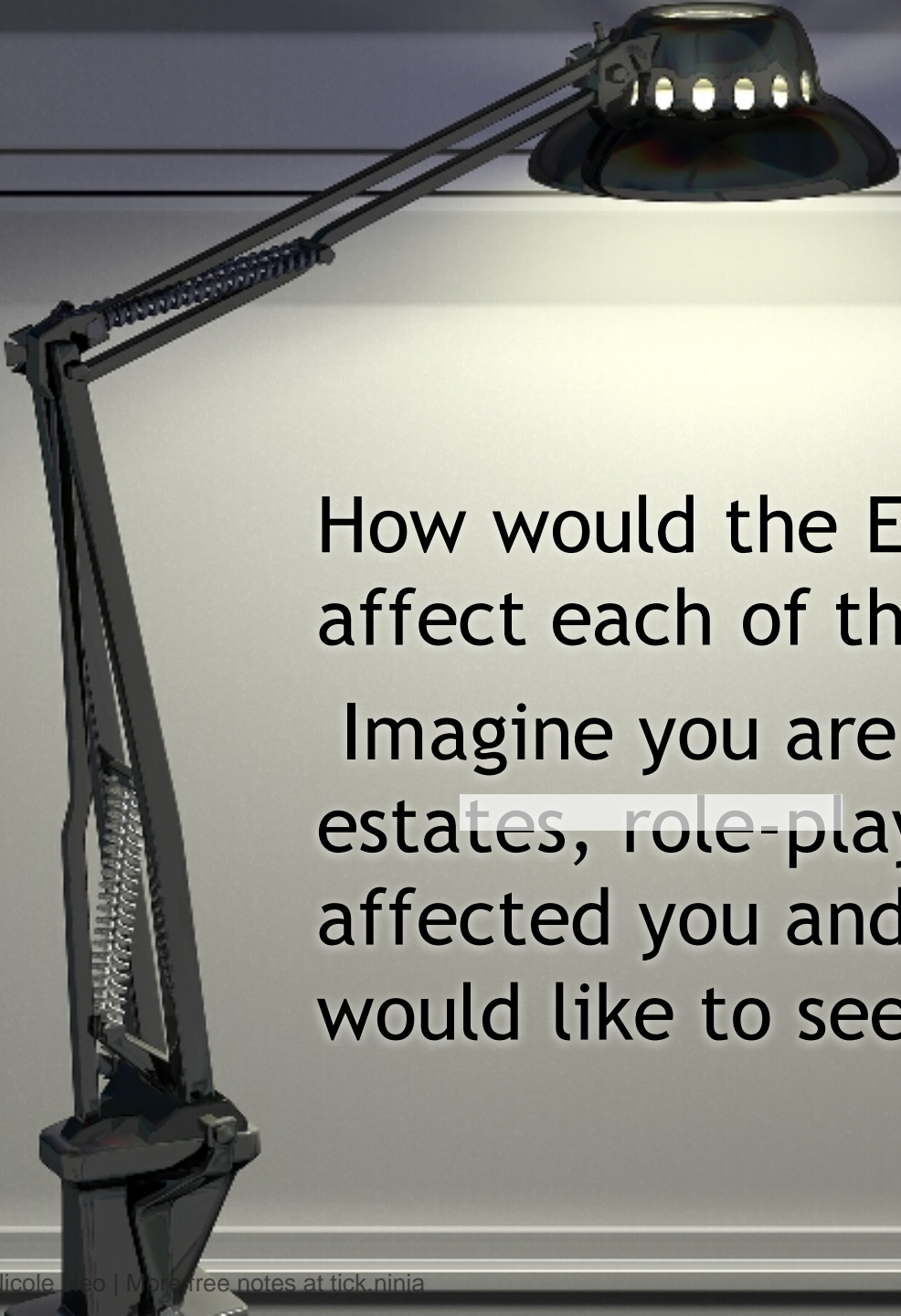
- Rousseau was very prolific in his writing. His key works include”
 - *Émile*
 - *Discours sur l'origine de l'inégalité des hommes*
 - *Du contrat social*



1712-1778


- 
- Rousseau saw a fundamental divide between society and human nature. He believed that man was good when in the state of nature, but is corrupted by society

- 
- His most important work “The Social Contract” became one of the most influential political philosophies in Western tradition
 - The social contract was basically an agreement on the part of an entire society to be governed by its general will
 - Because everybody was responsible for framing the general will, the creation of laws could never be delegated to a parliamentary institution




How would the Enlightenment ideas affect each of the 3 Estates?

Imagine you are ONE of the 3 estates, role-play how the ideas have affected you and the changes you would like to see in France.




Rise of the Bourgeoisie


- As merchants grow wealthy, this led to a creation of a new social class, the Bourgeoisie
- The wealthy merchants would become the backbone of the country's economy
- Yet political power is still dominated by the aristocracy (and in some societies, the clergy)
- This lack of political representation and social acknowledgement led to dissatisfaction among the Bourgeoisie




Rise of the Bourgeoisie

- The Enlightenment period and the proliferation of ideas from the philosophes provided an outlet for the Bourgeoisie to press for their stake.

- 
- How important was the American Revolutionary War in spreading the ideas of Enlightenment?
-

- 
1. It is right to take up arms against tyranny.
 2. There should be no taxation without representation.
 3. All men should have liberal freedoms.
 4. A republic is superior to a monarchy.

- 
- A desk lamp with a black adjustable arm and a silver-colored base is positioned on the left side of the frame. The lamp's head is tilted downwards, casting a bright, circular pool of light onto the center of the slide. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a desk or a wall.
- What role did the Enlightenment (ideology) play in the French Revolution?

