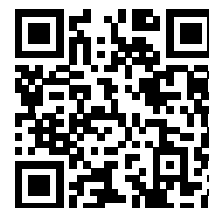


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Rational Thought in American Literature



In the 18th century, _____ ideas began to take hold in Europe and the American colonies. This period emphasized _____ as the primary source of authority and legitimacy. Early American literature was heavily influenced by these concepts, focusing on _____, democracy, and individual _____. Writers of the time, such as _____, Paine, and Jefferson, used their works to explore and advocate for _____ thought and scientific inquiry. The _____ of Independence, for example, reflects Enlightenment principles by arguing for the natural _____ of man and the rational justification for _____. Similarly, Benjamin Franklin's autobiography promotes self-improvement through reason and _____ wisdom. Thomas Paine's "Common Sense" played a crucial role in convincing Americans of the _____ necessity of breaking away from British rule. These texts collectively helped shape the intellectual _____ of the new nation, emphasizing the value of knowledge, freedom, and rational public _____. The era's literature not only reflects the philosophical underpinnings of American society but also contributed to the shaping of its national _____. Through their writings, early American authors laid the groundwork for a society that values _____ ideals, marking a significant departure from the traditional, often religiously driven narratives of previous generations.

revolution

Enlightenment

debate

practical

rights

reason

enlightenment

Declaration

logic

rights

logical

landscape

Franklin

rational

identity