

## Locke vs. Hobbes Worksheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Part 1 – Background

#### John Locke (1632–1704)

- Believed humans are generally reasonable and moral.
- Natural rights: life, liberty, and property.
- Government exists to protect these rights.
- People can overthrow a government that fails to protect their rights.
- Favored representative democracy.

#### Thomas Hobbes (1588–1679)

- Believed humans are naturally selfish and quick to fight.
  - Life without government would be “nasty, brutish, and short.”
  - People give up freedoms in exchange for protection (social contract).
  - Believed in a strong, absolute ruler to keep order.
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### Part 2 – Compare and Contrast

Topic	John Locke	Thomas Hobbes
View of human nature	_____	_____
Purpose of government	_____	_____
Type of government supported	_____	_____
Can people overthrow the government?	_____	_____

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### Part 3 – Quote Analysis

1. **Locke:** “All mankind... being all equal and independent, no one ought to harm another in his life, health, liberty, or possessions.”

- What is Locke saying?

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2. **Hobbes:** “In the state of nature... the life of man [is] solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short.”

- What is Hobbes saying?

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### Part 4 – Reflection Questions

1. Which philosopher do you agree with more? Why?

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2. Which ideas do you see in the U.S. Constitution or government today?

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3. Do you think human beings are naturally good or selfish? Explain.

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