



RENAISSANCE HUMANISTS BELIEVE:

Oi! Stop it!



EDUCATION



In medieval times, thought was controlled by the church, since the ones who made books were monks, who took years to create just one book. Only the rich and monks were literate, since they alone received education. However, with Gutenberg's invention of the printing press, books became easier and faster to produce, thus making them accessible to, not just the rich, but everyone. This made it easy for humanists to spread their ideas to the public, for all were educated. Humanists valued education for all, which is a highly modern way of thinking and the fourth goal of the SDGs.

APPROVEOMETER RATING:



5

QUESTION EVERYTHING



Renaissance humanist Lorenzo Valla dedicated his life to studying classical texts. He believed that Classical Latin was the purest, most beautiful form of Latin. That is, until he stumbled across a document by the name of the Donation of Constantine, in which the Roman emperor Constantine I supposedly bestowed vast amounts of land to the Pope. However, Valla noticed that the form of Latin used in the text did not match the Late Latin used in Constantine's time, thus questioning its authenticity. This did not make the Catholic Church happy, since it contradicted with their teachings, and he got himself into a lot of trouble.

APPROVEOMETER RATING:



4

FREEDOM



At the core of humanism are the principles of individualism and secularism, meaning that there are no supernatural forces and no afterlife, so humans should make the best of their lives on Earth. This idea, however, conflicted with the Catholic Church, which taught that anyone who broke God's laws would suffer in the afterlife. Some humanists were awarded a one-way ticket to hell by being burned at the stake.

APPROVEOMETER RATING:

2



CIVIC VIRTUE



Humanists brought back the ancient Greek and Roman idea of civic virtue, or the quality of being a good citizen, which they perceived as the key to creating a successful society and a transition from medieval life. Patrons funded the building of ancient Greek and Roman style architecture in public spaces. However, civic virtue is hard to achieve in reality, since there are far too many that stand in the way.

APPROVEOMETER RATING:

3



CLASSICAL LITERATURE

Early humanists trailed across Europe in search of long-lost Greek and Roman artifacts. They wanted to use the classical world's knowledge to solve real life problems. As a result, humanists came up with a new way of looking at life. However, I believe that modern humans should invent their own, more advanced ideas, instead of relying on outdated theories of the predecessors.

APPROVEOMETER RATING:

3

