Document 4

The only way whereby anyone divests himself of his natural liberty and puts on the bonds of civil society, is by agreeing with other men, to join and unite into a community for their comfortable, safe and peaceable living one amongst another, in a secure enjoyment of their properties, and a greater security against any that are not of it. ...

To this end it is that men give up all their natural power to the society they enter into, and the community put the legislative power into such hands as they think fit, with this trust, that they shall be governed by declared laws...

Absolute arbitrary power, or governing without settled standing laws, can neither of them consist with the ends of society and government.

As usurpation is the exercise of power which another hath a right to, so tyranny is the exercise of power beyond right, which nobody can have a right to; and this is making use of the power any one has in his hands, not for the good of those who are under it, but for his own private, separate advantage. When the governor, however entitled, makes not the law but his will the rule, and his commands and actions are not directed to the preservation of the properties of his people, but the satisfaction of his own... passion [that is tyranny]....

Wherever law ends, tyranny begins, if the law be transgressed to another's harm; and whosoever in authority exceeds the power given him by the law, and makes use of the force he has under his command... upon the subject which the law allows not, ceases in that to be a magistrate, and... may be opposed, as any other man who by force invades the right of another....

May the commands, then, of a prince be opposed?... May he be resisted, as often as any one shall find himself aggrieved, and but imagine he has not right done him? This will un hinge and overturn all politics, and instead of government and order, leave nothing but anarchy and confusion.

To this I answer: That force is to be opposed to nothing but to unjust and unlawful force. Whoever makes any opposition in any other case draws upon himself a just condemnation, both from God and man.

—John Locke, Second Treatise on Government (1690)

4a. According to Locke, how are law, power, and tyranny related?

4b. Under what circumstances does Locke think people may oppose their rulers?
Let’s “Un-Lock” John Locke: Reading for Comprehension

Directions: Please read the document provided to gather the following information below. Use support from the text.

- View of human nature [in your own words]:
- How does this differ from Hobbes?

- View of laws governing society:

- View of the “proper” structure of government:

- View of the role of the People (the governed) in society:

- What is Locke’s “tone” in this document? List three quotes that support your opinion.