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ENG202

Response Essay #1

1. *Where do you see evidence of corruptibility, irrational behavior and self-serving acts in the characters of Tartuffe and Orgon?*

Both Tartuffe and Orgon have displayed corruptibility, irrational behavior, and self-serving acts in the play Tartuffe. Tartuffe was a pious man who comes off as a righteous, and religious man. However, one day when Orgon was away, Tartuffe tried to make sexual advances to Orgon's wife. What made this action corrupt was the fact that Tartuffe used his power that he was given, which was not only food and shelter, but also honor and high esteem in Orgon's eyes and household. Tartuffe used his position as highly favored to his advantage, even if it hurt the one that got him there. This behavior was irrational because not only was he given food and shelter, but he was also going to have the opportunity to marry Orgon's daughter. Why would he risk losing all that was freely given to him for something that was off limits? This act was most certainly self-serving because his motive and intentions were focused on his own desires and wants without regard for those around him. The entire household would have suffered. Orgon was wrong for putting Tartuffe's best interest above his own wife and family.

2. *How is Molière's text a prelude to Enlightenment thought regarding Christianity?*

Molière's text is a prelude to Enlightenment regarding Christianity because it exposes the hypocrisy that exists in religion. It gave a powerful example of how someone can project religion and laws on others but not follow it themselves. It exposes how some people can use religion to for their own selfish gain.