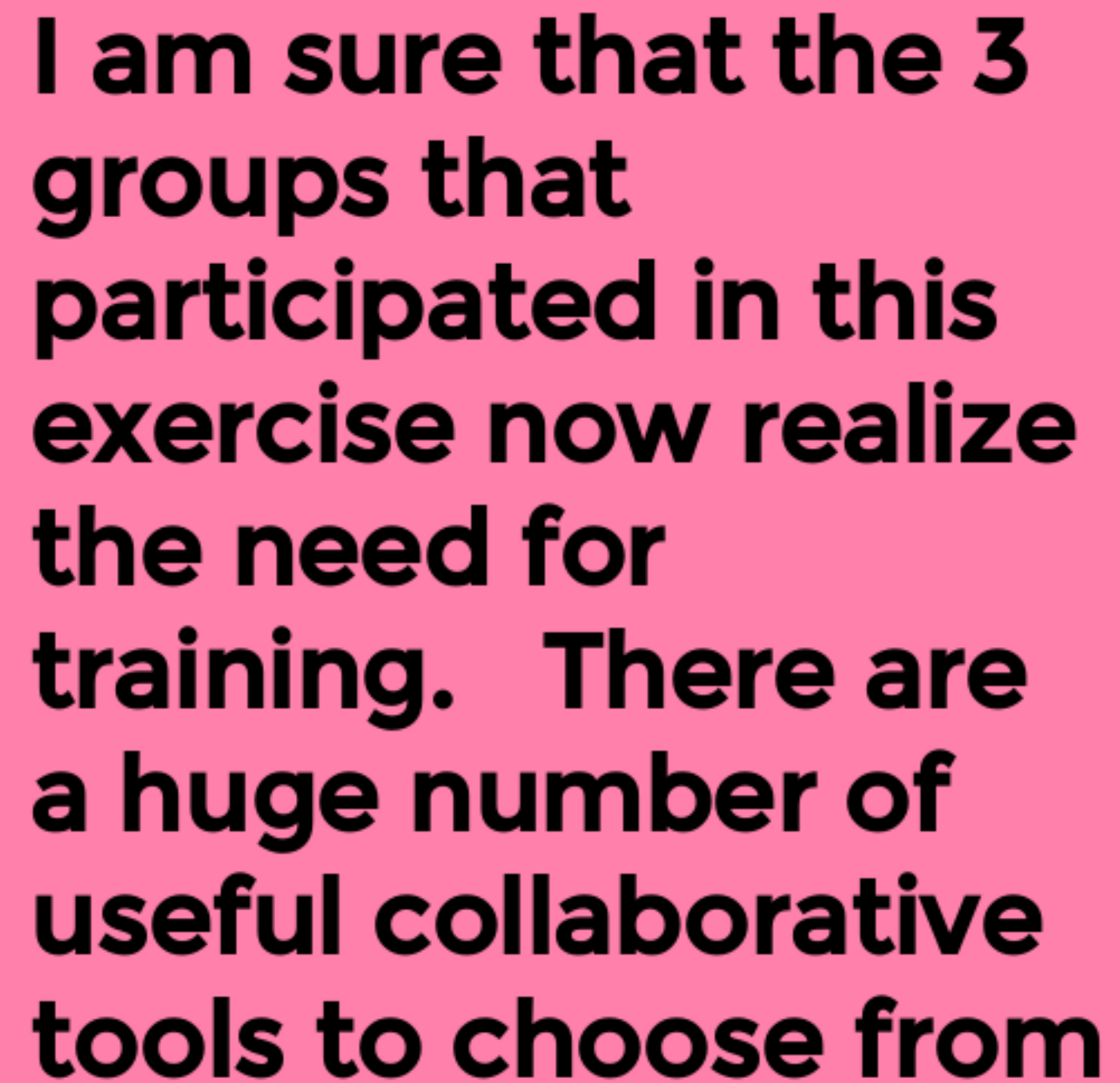


These discussion assignments have two purposes: a) to get some class input to the topics and b) to train you on how better to collaborate on documents, etc



I am sure that the 3 groups that participated in this exercise now realize the need for training. There are a huge number of useful collaborative tools to choose from

What kind of cultural or societal conditions must exist so that culture believes in the power of authority before they ever believe in data or science?

**Some
Assertions**

- a) Human beings in general are very accepting of authority.
- b) A culture that values obedience over skepticism (critical thinking)
- c) Those in authority seem untouchable
- d) Many cultures do not have open-mindedness
- e) Authority can dictate how education (brainwashing) occurs in their culture
- f) We assume that people of power are informed and have done their research.

DISCUSSION RESPONSE

When a society has imposed institutions that are contrary to inclusive ones, it is much easier for the minority to control the majority. When there is a central power that has a firm grip over what information enters and exits the country, and they restrict all political and economic freedoms, as well as strictly regulate societal activities, believing in scientific innovation is highly improbable. Through means of totalitarian power, the group in control can stay in control by using techniques such as hegemony, conformity, censorship, propaganda, and fear while implementing oppressive systems such as the feudal system, fascism, and communism. Ordinary people in these societies can observe the world around them, yet, due to the totalitarian nature they live under, the government can suppress any scientific future. I am not speaking of any specific instance of totalitarianism but rather inferring what the conditions must be from history for this theoretical society to exist.



A type of cultural or societal condition such as religion can make people believe in the power of authority before they ever believe in data or science.



Acquiescence to a social contract. Agreeing to live harmoniously among one another is a necessary prerequisite for eventually sharing and working towards common purposes.

**Doesn't the power of authority make a social contract not even possible?
(John Locke, Enlightenment)**