

Declaring independence was revolutionary for the Second Continental Congress.

A **revolution** (n.) is a significant or momentous change, or an overthrow of government.

Many historians agree that the American Revolution demonstrates *both* definitions when explaining the events from 1754—1776. Historians agree that the events that happened from 1754-1776 were a series of significant changes in the relationship between the 13 colonies and Great Britain, which led to an overthrow in government. (Wow, that looks like an *incredible* thesis...)

Objective: *Explain how the events from 1754-1776 led to the overthrow of the British government.*

**Using the events/terms, you are to prove why these events were in fact revolutionary. Terms required:
-3 points for each term not used in the essay!**

Stamp Act	T Act/Boston T-ParTEA	Boston Massacre	Sons of Liberty
Intolerable/Coercive Acts	French & Indian War	Second Cont. Congress	Declaration of Independence
Smuggling <3	Effigy/Effigies	Boycott	Battles of Lex. & Conc.
		Townshend Acts	

NO MORE than 3 pages typed, double spaced, one-inch margins, 12 font, Times New Roman.

Essay Rubric:

I. Content & Historical Accuracy: ____/50 pts – The essay includes a clear introduction, includes clearly delineated body paragraphs, and a good conclusion that restates the thesis. A perfectly written essay will include clearly defined examples from history, specifics of history that illuminate the examples, explanation of how the examples prove the thesis and a clear understanding of the importance of the examples in terms of prompt. This also includes answering the question and proving the thesis properly using adequate evidence in the body paragraphs. Central/Key questions are answered in the essay

II. Mechanics: ____/50pts—The essay is written using proper grammar, tense, and spelling. Readability falls in this category as well. The paper does not have flow, is difficult to read, or choppy. Sentence structure applies here. The paper does not have run-on sentences. Paragraphs are appropriate length. Under the circumstances, certain lapses in mechanics are allowed.

The essay will be graded in 5 point increments
If you use an outside source – Automatic 50.

Please remember the following when writing papers for history...

THIRD PERSON: No I, me, our, us, we, etc... When you write history, you write stating the facts. The facts stated prove your opinion...That's how you show it!

Introduction:

- Include the definition of a revolution...Set the tone of your paper!
- Include your thesis i.e.
 - *There were many significant events that happened in the 13 colonies from 1754-1776 that eventually led to the Second Continental Congress writing a Declaration of Independence...*
 - *From 1754-1776 the colonists' actions in America proved to be revolutionary when they finally wrote the Declaration of Independence, severing ties with Great Britain*
 - *The Declaration of Independence was the final act of many that happened in the colonies from 1754--1776, which led to the overthrow of the British government.*

Body Paragraphs:

- Write chronologically and thematically → Don't go from Fr. & Indian War to Declaration of Independence then back to the Stamp Act! That's crazy!
- Body paragraphs should be no less than 6 sentences and no more than 8...
- DO NOT just state fact after fact...Explain the HOWS and WHYS...
 - In 1765, Great Britain passed the Stamp Act, which taxed all imported printed materials in the colonies. Because of this act, the colonists were outraged and responded in many ways...
 - Things escalated in 1770 when five colonists were killed in what was called the Boston Massacre. The Boston Massacre was the first violent act of the Revolution...
 - The colonists did everything they could to protest the taxes imposed by Great Britain...

● **SUGGESTED groupings & Chronological Order:**

- French & Indian War → Debt → Stamp Act → Sons of Liberty → Repeal of Stamp Act
 - Townshend Acts → Boston Massacre → Repeal of Townshend Acts
 - Tea Act → Tea Party → Coercive/Intolerable Acts → First Cont. Congress
 - Lexington & Concord → Second Cont. Congress → Conclude paper with Decl. of Indep.
- In these body paragraphs, you must include effigies, boycotting, tarring & feathering...This can be in the paper more than once as well!

NO conclusion paragraph necessary. Simply restate the thesis and finish off your idea and prove your thesis in the last paragraph...Give me a solid concluding sentence...

Always write history papers in the **PAST TENSE**... This is a FEDERAL LAW

- Spell numbers under ten and single : one, two, three, four...etc...Write out numbers if they begin a sentence. Write out numbers like: 121, 33, 18, 9290, 52,000....
- Paragraphs = five to eight sentences in history papers – unless it is the introduction or conclusion
- Refer to people in history by their last name....You do not know them, so you may not call Theodore Roosevelt “Teddy” in a paper. George Washington is not called “George”...You don’t know him!!!
- No need to add to dates....March 5th, 1770 – the “th” is unnecessary...
 - *On March 5, 1770, colonists and Redcoats collided in the streets of Boston.*
- Be sure you have introduced a noun before using a subject pronoun in a sentence... “it” ... be specific in your writing – This is an antecedent thing, too!
- Do not use **contractions**, such as "didn't"; instead, say "did not."
- Do not write “in conclusion” or “overall” or anything that is similar to the following in your final paragraph...I know it is the conclusion...it’s last! -- History teachers HATE “in conclusion” or “finally” or “lastly” when beginning a concluding paragraph. We hate it.
- **Do not** start your papers/essays with a question. Yes, you have used a question as a “hook” at the beginning of your papers/essays in the past, but no longer! Start your papers/essays with a broad or general sentence that introduces the topic you will discuss.
 - *The American Revolution was a significant event in American history.*
 - *There have been 4460 presidents of the United States, and many of them were exceptional leaders.*

What is a thesis? Ask yourself “*What am I writing about?*”...There you should develop a thesis. The thesis is the idea around which you construct the rest of your paper. In a history paper, the thesis generally explains

HOW TO WRITE THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION PAPER!

Introduction:

- The definition of a revolution MUST be in the introduction -5 points if not done
- Include your thesis at the end of the introduction. The introduction is between 3-5 sentences.
 - *There were many significant events that happened in the 13 colonies from 1763-1776 that eventually led to the Second Continental Congress writing the Declaration of Independence...*
 - *From 1763-1776 the colonists' actions in America proved to be revolutionary when they finally wrote the Declaration of Independence, severing ties with Great Britain*
 - *The Declaration of Independence was the final act of many that happened in the colonies from 1763--1776, which led to the overthrow of the British government, because the colonists felt their rights as Englishmen were violated.*

Body Paragraphs – No set number of body paragraphs...

Conclusion or Concluding sentences: Restate thesis and finish off your idea and prove your thesis! -- Never write “in conclusion” or something similar to this phrase!

Chronological Order of Events for those of you who didn't take any notes on this unit...Sigh...

1. French & Indian War
2. Proclamation of 1763
3. Sugar Act
4. Quartering Act
5. Stamp Act
6. Sons of Liberty created
7. Stamp Act repealed
8. Townshend Acts
9. Boston Massacre
10. Tea Act
11. Boston Tea Party
12. Coercive/Intolerable Acts
13. First Continental Congress
14. Battles of Lexington & Concord
15. Second Continental Congress
16. Declaration of Independence signed
17. 8th Grade
18. Graduation..
19. First job
20. Marriage
21. Fired from third job
22. Death... This is how you write the paper :)

