LOYALIST AND PATRIOT LETTER
By Heather Cagle

Activity Description

Students will read *We the People: The Citizen & the Constitution* middle school text, Lesson 8. After reading the text, the student will write a persuasive letter on the behalf of the Loyalist or Patriots.

Suggested Grade Level

Middle school

Estimated Time to Complete

One class period

Objectives

Students will be able to

- identify positions of the Patriots and Loyalist;
- write a persuasive letter describing their point of view.

Materials Needed

- *We the People* middle school text
- Copies of Loyalist or Patriot handout (follows)
- Paper and writing utensils

Activity Procedures

1. Give each student a copy of the Loyalist or Patriot handout (follows)

2. As a class, complete steps one and two on the handout.

3. For step three, allow students to choose, or assign each of them the role of a loyalist or patriot. Have them create a thesis statement supporting their point of view.

4. In step four, the students will identify their arguments to support their thesis. Then they will find counter arguments from the opposing position. Finally, students will write a counter-counter argument, which closes the initial argument and supports the thesis.

Example: Although the king has been our ruler for our entire lives, it is time to sever the connection.

Reasons to support your thesis	Counter Argument	Counter-Counter Argument
1) The colonies are large enough to support themselves.	The king has one of the largest navies in the world.	But the colonies have enough resources to build their own navy.

5. Students will then use the chart to write a letter to persuade others to agree with their point of view.

LOYALIST OR PATRIOT

Step One: Topic: _____

                  Audience: _____

                  Purpose: _____

                  Form: _____

Step Two: Brainstorming

Patriot	Loyalist

Step Three: What is your thesis statement? Use this outline: Although (subject), (opinion).

Although _____,

_____.

Step Four:

Reasons to support your thesis	Counter Argument	Counter-Counter Argument
1		
2		
3		