

## Letter to the Editor – Revolutionary War

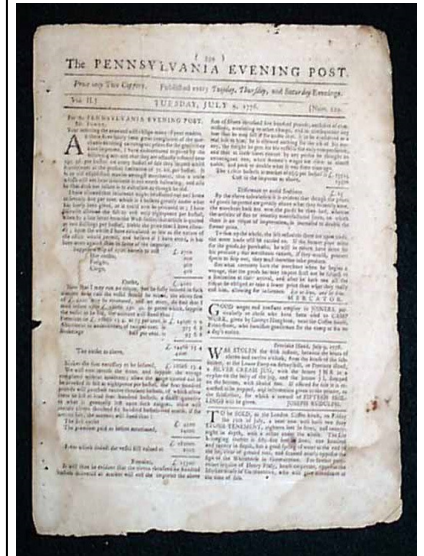
**Letter to the Editor Assignment:** A **letter to the editor** is a letter sent to a newspaper about issues of concern to its readers. Usually, letters are intended for publication.

### TASK 1: LOYALIST

It is 1776. You are a staunch **Loyalist** living in Philadelphia. You do not want to break away from the mother country despite all of the pressure you feel from the Patriots who live in your town. You decide to explain your position to remain loyal to the Crown by writing a letter to the editor to your local newspaper, the **Pennsylvania Evening Post**. You are trying to make the Patriots understand & accept your position. Be persuasive!

### Task 2: PATRIOT

It is 1776. You are a proud **Patriot** living in Philadelphia! You want to break away from the mother country – after all, the British have not been treating the colonists fairly! You decide to explain your position to break away from the Crown by writing a Letter to the Editor to your local newspaper, the **Pennsylvania Evening Post**. You are trying to make the Loyalists understand & accept your position. Be persuasive!



## What to Include in the 2 Letters:

### 1) Persona

Be creative! Are you a farmer or a business owner? A lawyer or a fisherman? Create a character – name, address, job, etc. This persona will help make your letter believable. Personas should be *different* in each of the two letters that you create.

### 2) Political Position

Be Specific! There are many examples of political beliefs given in the excerpt you read in class. Put yourself in the shoes of both a Loyalist a Patriot – think as a Loyalist and Patriot would think! You are trying to make other people understand your point of view, and possibly join your ranks.

### 3) Arguments against your Foe

Be incisive! Point out the weaknesses in the arguments of your rival; i.e. when writing as a Loyalist, point out the weaknesses of the Patriot's argument, and vice versa. Remember to use the Patriot/Loyalist reading as a resource.

## Tips:

- Remember to read your letters aloud to yourself – if it doesn't make sense to you, it won't make sense to me!
- Use the appropriate language & tone for this type of letter. You aren't trying to make friends, but you also don't want to be tarred and feathered!
- Review the rubric as you write your articles – it shows you what I will be looking for, and what you should be including in your letter. Be creative!
- Check spelling and grammar

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Pd. \_\_\_\_\_ US History

**STAPLE YOUR LETTERS TO THIS SHEET AND TURN THEM IN WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED WRITING BOTH LETTERS – I will use the rubrics below to grade each of your letters.**

**Letter to the Editor Rubric:** Each letter is worth 15 points.

**LETTER #1 = 15 Points**

<b>RUBRIC</b>	<b>Advanced (5 Points)</b>	<b>Proficient (4 Points)</b>	<b>Basic (3 Points)</b>	<b>Below Basic (2 Points)</b>
<b>Impact</b>	Student is persuasive & articulate in expressing his /her point of view.	Student offers a clear and focused point of view.	Student expresses a point of view.	Student does not indicate a point of view.
<b>Completeness</b>	Student's letter includes a realistic persona, a well articulated political position and a completely developed argument against the beliefs of the Loyalists/Patriots.	Student includes a persona, a political position and an argument against the beliefs of the Loyalists/Patriots.	Students include 2 of the 3: a persona, a political position, and/or an argument against the beliefs of the Loyalists/Patriots.	Student does not include 2 of the aspects of the assignment: persona, political position and/or an argument against the beliefs of the Loyalists/Patriots.
<b>Mechanics</b>	Letter is well-written & creative. Author fully develops his/her ideas with strong & persuasive style.	Student uses clear and correct grammar and mechanics to develop his/her ideas.	Student's letter contains some problems with mechanics that obscure the strength of his/her ideas.	Student's letter contains serious mistakes in grammar and/or mechanics making its impact on the reader minimal.

**Letter #2 = 15 Points**

<b>RUBRIC</b>	<b>Advanced (5 Points)</b>	<b>Proficient (4 Points)</b>	<b>Basic (3 Points)</b>	<b>Below Basic (2 Points)</b>
<b>Impact</b>	Student is persuasive & articulate in expressing his /her point of view.	Student offers a clear and focused point of view.	Student expresses a point of view.	Student does not indicate a point of view.
<b>Completeness</b>	Student's letter includes a realistic persona, a well articulated political position and a completely developed argument against the beliefs of the Loyalists/Patriots.	Student includes a persona, a political position and an argument against the beliefs of the Loyalists/Patriots.	Students include 2 of the 3: a persona, a political position, and/or an argument against the beliefs of the Loyalists/Patriots.	Student does not include 2 of the aspects of the assignment: persona, political position and/or an argument against the beliefs of the Loyalists/Patriots.
<b>Mechanics</b>	Letter is well-written & creative. Author fully develops his/her ideas with strong & persuasive style.	Student uses clear and correct grammar and mechanics to develop his/her ideas.	Student's letter contains some problems with mechanics that obscure the strength of his/her ideas.	Student's letter contains serious mistakes in grammar and/or mechanics making its impact on the reader minimal.