

Attachment A: Guided Reading Outlines

***Common Sense* by Thomas Paine**

(NOTE: This outline is designed to accompany the excerpt from *Common Sense* found on the *Digital History* Web site. Correct answers are shown in italics.)

I. First main point (paragraph two)

The colonies are populated by people from many countries. Therefore, Britain cannot call itself the “mother” country. Great Britain cannot assert its will on people from other countries.

II. Second main point (paragraph three)

Connections with Great Britain work to the disadvantage of the colonies. The colonies are forced to go to war with other European countries because they are colonies of England. The colonies are unable to pursue friendships or trade relations with countries if those countries are enemies of England.

III. Third main point (paragraph four)

King George III is an unjust ruler. He rules with absolute power and does not listen to the will of the people. As a result, it is pointless for the colonies to try to reach a compromise with the crown.

Speech to the Virginia Convention by Patrick Henry

(NOTE: Ask students to find examples of figurative language in the speech. Henry appeals to both emotion and reason to make his arguments; have students find examples of both as they read the speech. Correct answers are shown in italics.)

I. First main point (paragraph one)

The only choices are freedom (liberty, independence) or slavery.

II. Second main point (paragraph two)

*British ask to be friends again, yet they prepare for war.
Colonists have made numerous efforts to make peace, but they have been rejected.
There is no other choice but to fight.*

III. Third main point (paragraph three)

*There is no time like the present to fight.
If we do not fight, we will lose our liberty.
God is on our side in this war.*