

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Voices of Revolution – A Clash of Appeals



**Instructions:** Read the two primary source excerpts below. These documents were written less than a year apart, yet they express very different messages. After reading, respond to the questions that follow in complete sentences. Support your answers with evidence from the texts when possible.

### Excerpt 1: Olive Branch Petition (July 1775)

From the Second Continental Congress to King George III:

*"Attached to Your Majesty's person, family, and government, with all devotion that becomes loyal subjects, we therefore entreat Your Royal Attention to this our humble petition... We beg leave to assure Your Majesty that we wish nothing more ardently than a speedy end to the present unhappy situation and a return to the harmony formerly enjoyed."*

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### Excerpt 2: *Common Sense* by Thomas Paine (January 1776)

*"Even the distance at which the Almighty hath placed England and America is a strong natural proof that the authority of one over the other was never the design of Heaven... The sun never shined on a cause of greater worth. 'Tis not the concern of a day, a year, or an age; posterity are virtually involved in the contest, and will be more or less affected to the end of time."*

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### Response Questions

1. What is the tone of each excerpt, and how does it reflect the author's attitude toward the British monarchy?
2. How do the purposes of the two documents differ, and what is each writer or group trying to achieve?
3. Consider the intended audience for each document. Who was each written for, and how might that influence the language and message?
4. Which excerpt would be more persuasive to a colonist still unsure about whether to support independence or remain loyal to the Crown? Explain your reasoning.
5. In your view, which document better captures the spirit of the American Revolution as it is remembered today? Justify your response with evidence from the texts.