

Name _____

Voices of Revolution – A Clash of Appeals Answer Key

1. The tone of the Olive Branch Petition is respectful and pleading, showing that the authors still saw themselves as loyal British subjects seeking peace. In contrast, Paine's tone in *Common Sense* is passionate and assertive. He expresses a firm rejection of British rule and argues that it is both unnatural and unjust for America to remain under England's authority.
2. The purpose of the Olive Branch Petition is to prevent war and restore peace between the colonies and Britain. The writers are asking King George III to stop the conflict and return to the previous relationship. *Common Sense*, however, is a persuasive argument urging Americans to support complete independence and abandon all hope of reconciliation.
3. The Olive Branch Petition was written for King George III and British officials, which explains its careful and loyal tone. Paine's pamphlet was written for ordinary American colonists, using emotional and accessible language to inspire action and a break from the monarchy.
4. Many students may argue that *Common Sense* would be more persuasive to a colonist on the fence because it speaks directly to their experience, offers a clear call to action, and appeals to shared values like liberty and future generations' freedom. The Olive Branch Petition might be seen as too submissive or idealistic, especially after British military action had already begun.
5. While both documents are historically important, *Common Sense* better reflects the spirit of the Revolution as it is often remembered — bold, idealistic, and centered on liberty and self-rule. Its lasting phrases and urgent appeal match the narrative of a people fighting for freedom against tyranny.