

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Voices of 1775

**Directions:** Read the background information and the passage carefully. Consider the time period, situation, and audience in which the author wrote. Think about why the author might have chosen to write the piece in that specific moment. Then, answer the questions in complete sentences, using evidence from the text and the historical context.

### Background

In 1775, tensions between the American colonies and Britain were escalating. Many colonists debated whether to remain loyal to the Crown or to seek independence. Writers and speakers of the time often published pamphlets to persuade their fellow colonists.

### *A Call to Courage*

The time has come when silence is no longer an option. Our homes, our families, and our very freedom are threatened by those who claim authority an ocean away. Shall we remain obedient to a king who taxes us without consent and sends soldiers to guard our streets? Or shall we rise and claim the rights that belong to us by nature and by justice? Let no man be deceived—freedom is not granted by rulers but demanded by the people. I write not to sow fear, but to awaken courage. For if we act together, history will remember us not as subjects, but as citizens.

1. What issue is the author addressing in this passage?
2. Why did the author choose to write this piece at this particular moment in history?
3. What emotions or values is the author trying to stir in the audience?
4. Based on the time and situation, what was the **purpose** of this writing?
5. How might the purpose of this piece differ if it were written in a peaceful, modern society instead of 1775?