

## Revolutionary Reasons Answer Key

1. **Main message:** Colonists should break free from Britain and govern themselves.
2. **Purpose:** To **persuade**; Paine is urging colonists to support independence, not simply describing facts.
3. **Reasoning/evidence:** He argues that distance makes British rule ineffective, Britain's wars harm the colonies, and independence will allow prosperity.
4. **Emotions/ideas:** He appeals to pride, frustration with unfair rule, and hope for self-determination.
5. **Historical influence:** It rallied many colonists toward supporting independence and became a widely read pamphlet shaping revolutionary thought.

### Teacher Note:

This exercise helps students distinguish between different author purposes in historical texts. Paine's *Common Sense* is a clear example of persuasive writing with strong emotional and logical appeals. Encourage students to identify both reasoning and rhetorical strategies (like appeals to fairness and freedom).