

Tea Party Persuasion Answer Key

Student responses will vary, but strong paragraphs should include:

- A **clear stance** (supporting or opposing the colonists' actions).
- **Two historically accurate reasons**, such as:
 - Protest against "taxation without representation."
 - Reaction to the Tea Act's unfair monopoly for the East India Company.
 - Belief that destruction of property was too extreme or unlawful.
- A **logical conclusion** summarizing the student's position.

Examples:

- **Defending:** "The Boston Tea Party was justified because the colonists had no voice in British government and had tried peaceful protests first."
- **Criticizing:** "The Boston Tea Party was not justified because destroying property hurt the economy and damaged Britain's trust in the colonies."

Teacher's Guide

- Begin by reviewing persuasive writing structure: **claim, reasons, evidence, conclusion**.
- Remind students that both sides had valid perspectives - this encourages critical thinking.
- **Differentiation:**
 - Offer a word bank of persuasive terms (e.g., unfair, justified, rebellion, protest, property, freedom).
 - Allow advanced students to include a counterargument ("Some people believe..., but I think...").
- **Engagement idea:** Conduct a quick "vote" before and after writing to see if opinions change through argument building.
- **Extension activity:** Have students revise their paragraph into a short speech and present it as if they were a colonist addressing a town meeting in 1773.