

## US History

### Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* Graded Discussion Questions

Points Possible: 25 pts

**Directions:** Answer each of the following questions in groups. Use specific examples from the reading.

\***Propaganda** – the use of words or images to rally people to a cause, to influence their thinking, or eliminate dissent.

1. How is it that “Time makes more converts than reason”?
2. How is the cause of America more than simply just an American cause?
3. Why is war with the British a “last resource” (last resort) for the Americans?
4. How does this conflict involve all mankind rather than just a few individuals in America?
5. What attempts have been made at reconciliation according to Paine, and why is reconciliation no longer possible?
6. How does Paine argue that the people of the American colonies do not need Britain in order to prosper?

7. What motives do the British have in keeping the colonies? How are the colonists' motives different? (Think about commerce/world trade for both questions)
  
8. How does a colonial alliance with Britain bring the colonists into European conflicts (i.e. war)?
  
9. Why is unity so critical for the colonies?
  
10. Analyze the four arguments for independence from Britain. Put each of the four in your own words:
  - 1st.
  
  - 2nd.
  
  - 3rd.
  
  - 4th.
  
11. Would you say that *Common Sense* is an example of propaganda or promotion? Why?