# Three Ways to Win

Weigh political, military, and diplomatic contributions

**SS24.6.9a** "Evaluate the political and military contributions to the American Revolution of Founding Fathers, including their efforts to mobilize support, develop military strategy, and conduct foreign diplomacy."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline one action by a leader in each paragraph, then circle a result of that action. Use your marks to decide how each action helped the American cause.

### More Than One Kind of Victory

1. In 1776, people in the colonies did not agree on whether to break from Britain. In the Continental Congress, John Adams argued strongly for independence and helped persuade other delegates to support it. He also served on the committee that drafted the Declaration of Independence, although Thomas Jefferson wrote its first draft. Adams's work helped turn disagreement into a shared political decision. A declaration alone could not defeat British troops, but it gave the colonies a common goal and a public reason to keep fighting.

2. After independence was declared, General George Washington faced a stronger British army. In late 1776, many American soldiers had short enlistments and might soon leave. Washington led a surprise attack on Hessian troops fighting for Britain at Trenton, New Jersey, on December 26. The victory raised American spirits and encouraged some soldiers to stay in the army. Washington could not win the war with one attack, but his choice of time and place helped keep the army together when losing it might have ended the fight.

3. American leaders also needed help from abroad. In France, Benjamin Franklin met with French officials and made the American cause more appealing. France had already sent secret aid, but in 1778 it signed an alliance with the United States after the American victory at Saratoga. The alliance brought French troops, ships, and money to the war. Franklin did not cause the alliance by himself, and success on the battlefield mattered. Still, his diplomacy helped turn French interest into a formal partnership that gave Americans resources they could not easily supply alone.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did Adams's work in Congress matter even though a declaration could not defeat British troops?

2. Why was Washington's decision to attack at Trenton important beyond winning one battle?

3. What made Franklin's diplomacy valuable, and why can he not take all the credit for the French alliance?

4. Choose two leaders whose contributions worked in different ways. How did each help keep the American fight going?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine the Continental Congress must choose where to focus its limited effort. Rank building political support, planning military action, and seeking foreign allies from most urgent to least urgent. Use at least two details from the passage to explain your ranking, and tell what could be lost by putting one type of work last.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 6 · SS24.6.9a

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one action by a leader in each paragraph, then circle a result of that action. Use your marks to decide how each action helped the American cause. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Why did Adams's work in Congress matter even though a declaration could not defeat British troops? | **He helped delegates reach a shared decision for independence. The declaration gave the colonies a common goal and a public reason to keep fighting.** |
| 2 | Why was Washington's decision to attack at Trenton important beyond winning one battle? | **The victory raised American spirits and encouraged some soldiers to stay, helping keep the army together.** |
| 3 | What made Franklin's diplomacy valuable, and why can he not take all the credit for the French alliance? | **His work helped turn French interest into an alliance that brought troops, ships, and money. The American victory at Saratoga also mattered.** |
| 4 | Choose two leaders whose contributions worked in different ways. How did each help keep the American fight going? | **For example, Adams helped unite delegates behind independence, while Washington's victory at Trenton helped keep soldiers in the army.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would put military action first, foreign diplomacy second, and political support third. Washington's attack at Trenton raised spirits when soldiers might leave, so keeping the army together seems most urgent. Next, an alliance with France could bring troops, ships, and money that Americans lacked. Adams's work gave the colonies a shared goal, but independence had already been declared. Putting political support last could make it harder to keep people united while the army fights.

Accept different rankings if students support them with at least two accurate passage details and explain a reasonable cost of their lowest-ranked choice. For question 4, any two leaders are acceptable when their distinct contributions and effects are clear.