

Voices Shape Revolution

Trace how individuals changed ideas, actions, and political debates.

SS.8.A.3.5 "Describe the influence of individuals on social and political developments during the Revolutionary era."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each person's action, circle the social or political development it influenced, and number the three action-to-influence pairs.

People Who Moved the Revolution

- ① In Boston, Samuel Adams used meetings, newspaper essays, and letters to turn anger about British taxes into organized action. After the Boston Tea Party, British officials closed Boston's port and tightened control of Massachusetts. Adams had helped build Committees of Correspondence, which carried news and arguments between towns and colonies. These networks encouraged colonists to discuss shared complaints instead of acting alone. By linking local protests, Adams helped create broader support for resistance and for the First Continental Congress.
- ② In January 1776, Thomas Paine published *Common Sense*, a pamphlet written in plain, forceful language. Paine attacked the idea that an island should rule a continent and argued that monarchy violated natural equality. Paine claimed that 120,000 copies had been printed within a few months. The pamphlet gave ordinary readers words and reasons for independence. It helped shift public debate away from repairing ties with Britain and toward declaring a new nation.
- ③ Abigail Adams influenced Revolutionary politics through private letters to her husband, John Adams, a leader in the Continental Congress. In March 1776, she urged him to "remember the ladies" when creating new laws. She also described wartime shortages and argued that women should not be subject to unchecked male power. Her request did not win equal legal rights for women at the time. Still, her letters preserved a powerful challenge to old social rules and showed that the Revolution raised questions about who deserved political voice.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How did Samuel Adams help turn local anger into wider resistance to Britain?

2 What idea did Thomas Paine argue in *Common Sense*, and how did that idea affect public debate?

3 What detail from the passage shows that Paine's ideas could reach many colonists? Explain why that mattered.

4 Contrast the immediate result of Abigail Adams's request with its longer influence on Revolutionary society.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write 3 sentences comparing Samuel Adams and Thomas Paine. Explain how each man influenced a political development, then make a claim about which method had the more direct effect on the independence debate, using at least two details from the passage.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each person's action, circle the social or political development it influenced, and number the three action-to-influence pairs. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Samuel Adams help turn local anger into wider resistance to Britain?	He used meetings, essays, letters, and Committees of Correspondence to connect towns and colonies, building broader support for resistance and the First Continental Congress.
2	What idea did Thomas Paine argue in <i>Common Sense</i> , and how did that idea affect public debate?	Paine argued that monarchy violated natural equality and that Britain should not rule the colonies. His pamphlet helped move debate toward independence.
3	What detail from the passage shows that Paine's ideas could reach many colonists? Explain why that mattered.	Paine claimed that 120,000 copies had been printed within a few months. This helped ordinary readers gain reasons and language to support independence.
4	Contrast the immediate result of Abigail Adams's request with its longer influence on Revolutionary society.	Her request did not win equal legal rights for women at the time. Her letters challenged old social rules and raised questions about who deserved political voice.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Samuel Adams and Thomas Paine influenced the Revolution in different ways. Adams built Committees of Correspondence that connected towns and colonies, while Paine used *Common Sense* to persuade readers that independence was necessary. Paine had the more direct effect on the independence debate because his pamphlet was widely shared and helped move public discussion toward a new nation.

Accept accurate paraphrases that connect each individual's action or message to a social or political development. For the open response, accept either comparison claim if the student supports it with accurate details from the passage.