

Critical Thinking Paper:
Patriots vs. Loyalists

As the crisis between Britain and its American colonists grew, each colonist had to decide how they would respond and which side they would support. This was not an easy decision, as each person knew they would be responsible for their choices, the actions their choices required, and the possible consequences of those actions.

This paper gives you the chance to consider the personal responsibility involved. Imagine it is the summer of 1775; the Second Continental Congress has just established the Continental Army and has called all men into service with it or their local militia. Keeping historical context in mind, answer the following questions in your paper:

1. What options were available to the colonists at this point? (This may seem obvious, but don't skip this step!) Describe each possible position.
2. What role might a Patriot, male or female, take during the war? How might a Loyalist act? Provide a minimum of two ways each of these might put their beliefs into action. Specific historical examples will better demonstrate understanding of the situation; vague answers will get fewer points.
3. What consequences might stem from these actions? Think of specific ways people's decisions could impact themselves and those around them. How might being a Patriot or Loyalist impact the community? Their families? Themselves?
4. Now consider your own response, based on who you are and what you have learned so far in this class. If you lived in 1775, which side would you personally choose? Explain why but keep your answer historically consistent; "I would be a Patriot because they won the war" wouldn't work in 1775, for example. What might be required of you if you follow through on your choice? What might be the possible consequences? Would you be willing to take the responsibility to act on your principles?

Your essay should be in paragraph format and two pages minimum (not 1½) with one-inch margins on all sides, double-spaced, and printed on one side of the paper only. The first line of each paragraph should be indented ½ inch. One paper copy of the paper is required. It must be stapled (upper left-hand corner) and include your Student ID Number along with your name in the upper left-hand corner (see example). *You will also upload a digital copy (in MSWord format) on eCampus.* Both the paper copy and the digital copy are due by the deadline date given in the course calendar. The paper will be considered late as soon as class on the deadline date is concluded. After that, there will be an automatic ten-point penalty for each day/class period it is late. For instance, after the due date, your paper can only get a maximum of 90, after the next class period an 80, etc. No papers will be accepted after Final Exam week has commenced.

Don't forget to use the Writing Center as a valuable resource! Also, as always, please see me if you have any questions or wish to show me a draft of your work.