

## Preparing for the Panel Debate

Your group will bring to life a historical figure. This figure will debate whether the American colonies should declare independence from Great Britain. Follow the steps below to prepare your historical figure for the debate. Have your teacher initial each step when your group completes it.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Step 1: Review your role.** Your teacher will assign you a role. Then you should read the information below. Make sure you clearly understand what you have to do.

**Public Relations Agent:** You will lead the group during Step 2. Then you will write a statement to introduce your historical figure during the panel debate.

**Actor:** You will lead the group during Step 3. Then you will bring the historical figure to life during the panel debate.

**Investigative Reporter:** You will lead the group during Step 4. Then you will direct questions to your historical figure's opponents during the panel debate.

**Costume Designer:** You will lead the group during Step 5. Then you will create a costume and props for your historical figure to use during the panel debate.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Step 2: Learn about your historical figure.** Take turns reading aloud the information about your historical figure in this lesson of your book. When you finish reading, have the Public Relations Agent record answers to these questions:

1. What occupation(s) did your historical figure hold during the American Revolution?
2. What are three important details to remember about your historical figure's personal life?
3. How would your historical figure answer when asked, "Should the American colonies declare independence?"
4. What actions did your historical figure take for or against independence?

\_\_\_\_\_ **Step 3: Prepare your Actor.** Your group's Actor will have to explain his or her position during the panel debate. Think of three arguments your Actor could use to support his or her answer to the question, "Should the American colonies declare independence?" Have the Actor record your answers below.

Help your Actor think of three different ways he or she might act or behave during the debate to reflect your historical figure's personality. For example, he or she might shout to show anger or roll his or her eyes to show disagreement. Have the Actor record your ideas below. (Look for ideas about how your figure would look and act in your book.)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Step 4: Prepare questions for your historical figure's opponents on the panel.** During the panel debate, Investigative Reporters will be asking questions of the other historical figures. To prepare, read the three sections about your opponents in your book. Then have the Investigative Reporter write at least one question for each opponent. For example, if your historical figure is a Patriot, you might ask Loyalist Thomas Hutchinson, "Why do you enforce British laws that are unfair to the colonists?" Record your questions below.

Opponent 1:

Question:

Opponent 2:

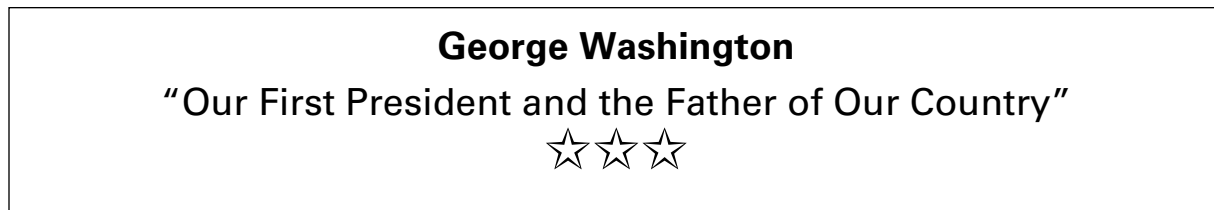
Question:

Opponent 3:

Question:

\_\_\_\_\_ **Step 5: Prepare materials for the panel debate.** To bring your figure to life during the panel debate, the Costume Designer will make sure each of the following tasks is completed:

- **Actor** cuts out and decorates the mask so that it looks realistic. Make sure that he or she can breathe, see, and speak through it.
- **Public Relations Agent** writes a 30-second introductory statement that includes your historical figure's name, occupation, accomplishments, and views on independence.
- **Costume Designer** gathers appropriate materials for your historical figure to wear and props for him or her to hold during the panel discussion. (Look for ideas in your book.)
- **Investigative Reporter** designs a nameplate that includes the name of your historical figure in large letters, a slogan, and an illustration that represents your figure's viewpoints. Here is an example of what a nameplate for George Washington might look like:



\_\_\_\_\_ **Step 6: Rehearse for the panel debate.** As you rehearse, make sure that

- the Public Relations Agent can deliver the introductory statement clearly.
- the Actor speaks clearly and dramatically and can explain his or her views on the issue of whether or not the American colonies should declare independence from Great Britain.
- the Costume Designer and the Investigative Reporter prepare the Actor for questions that opponents on the panel might ask.

## Mask of Thomas Hutchinson



## Mask of Jonathan Boucher



## Mask of Lord Dunmore



## Mask of Benjamin Franklin



## Mask of Mercy Otis Warren





## Mask of Samuel Adams



# Illustrations for Reading Notes

