

3.1 Quebec's Response to the American Appeal

In 1774, the First Continental Congress sent a letter to Quebec asking the French to make common cause with them against the English. For this assignment you will write a letter of response from the French to the Americans (either accepting *or* rejecting the proposal).

In your letter, provide arguments for or against the French joining the Americans in their struggle. Feel free to complete additional research using the Internet. I recommend the website www.thecanadianencyclopedia.com.

Note: you can earn bonus marks if you compose your letter in French *and* English. If you do this, you need to submit an English *and* French version of your response.

Lastly, while writing your letter (accepting or rejecting the American offer) you must role play and imagine that you are either a **land-owning seigneur** or a **liberal-minded journalist**.

Roles & Characteristics

Below you will find some potential generalizations about that may or may not be true about seigneurs and/or liberal journalists. I just wanted to provide you with some sort of framework for your role. Feel free to mix and match the various characteristics to make something unique.

Seigneurs: tended to be conservative in outlook preferring tradition to progress or change. They were supporters of the Catholic Church and likewise the Church supported them. They generally believed they were better than members of lower social classes. They were often well-educated and had some significant travel experience.

Liberal Journalist: tended to be more democratic in their outlook. They would have been critical of the privileged class and would have supported extending democratic rights to more people. A liberal-minded person might be critical of the Catholic Church. They may have some formal education or are self-taught. They are a practical people who look for practical solutions to real problems.

Attention: these are of course generalizations. In reality, people belonging to either class might be liberal or conservative in their outlook.

Procedure:

1a). Select a role for yourself—seigneur or journalist. Then come up with a French name for your character. You will use this name while writing your letter.

1b). Decide whether you are going to accept *or* reject the American proposal.

2a). Read the letter entitled *Appeal to the Inhabitants of Quebec*. Make note of important points Middleton makes by making jot-notes. You might find these notes helpful in completing your letter.

2b). Familiarize yourself with the information related to Middleton's letter found at the bottom of webpage 3.0.

3). In terms of format, your letter should be an exact replica of Middleton's letter. I.e. Print out his letter from the Student Zone *and* take note of the special information below:

a). Your letter shall be entitled *Response to the First Continental Congress*.

b). If you are a liberal journalist direct your letter to the Americans from the *Free Citizens of Quebec*. However, if you playing a seigneur, direct your letter to the Americans from the *Canadien Elite of Quebec*.

c). The year of your response shall be 1774.

d). Close your letter by including your signature followed by your occupation or status.

I.e. Margaret Laporte, Journalist or Rene des Monts, Seigneur.

5). Hand write your letter. Your letter should be one page in length, double-spaced, and free from grammatical and spelling errors.

6). Feel free to be creative with your overall presentation.