

Group Name \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

Members:

Closing Statement

Opening Statement

Idea/Reason	My Team's Argument	Opponent's likely Argument	My Team's Rebuttals

## **Debate Format:**

1. Opening Statement: Provide a Passionate overview of group's position
  - a. Colonists/Tea Party: 1 min.
  - b. British/Loyalists: 1 min.

### *Round 1*

2. Best Argument: What is your strongest Argument? Only discuss one point.
  - a. Colonists/Tea Party: 2 min. [Argument]
  - b. British/Loyalists: 1 min. [Rebuttal]
  - c. Colonists/Tea Party: 1 min. [Final Word]
3. Best Counter Argument: What is your strongest Argument? Only discuss one point.
  - a. British/Loyalists: 2 min. [Argument]
  - b. Colonists/Tea Party: 1 min. [Rebuttal]
  - c. British/Loyalists: 1 min. [Final Word]

### *Round 2*

4. Next Best Argument: Only use one point [Can't use any topic/idea already discussed]
  - a. Colonists/Tea Party: 2 min. [Argument]
  - b. British/Loyalists: 1 min. [Rebuttal]
  - c. Colonists/Tea Party: 1 min. [Final Word]
5. Best Counter Argument: Only use one point [Can't use any topic/idea already discussed]
  - a. British/Loyalists: 2 min. [Argument]
  - b. Colonists/Tea Party: 1 min. [Rebuttal]
  - c. British/Loyalists: 1 min. [Final Word]

### *Round 3*

6. Next Best Argument: Only use one point [Can't use any topic/idea already discussed]
  - a. Colonists/Tea Party: 2 min. [Argument]
  - b. British/Loyalists: 1 min. [Rebuttal]
  - c. Colonists/Tea Party: 1 min. [Final Word]
7. Best Counter Argument: Only use one point [Can't use any topic/idea already discussed]
  - a. British/Loyalists: 2 min. [Argument]
  - b. Colonists/Tea Party: 1 min. [Rebuttal]
  - c. British/Loyalists: 1 min. [Final Word]
8. Closing Statements: One to two members from each team gives a brief, but moving final appeal
  - a. British/Loyalists: 1 min.
  - b. Colonist/Tea Party: 1 min.

Total Time: 28 minutes \* Remember to say "Thank You" at the end of Argument and Rebuttal and Use all of your time otherwise the other team can jump in if you are not speaking.

## Example of Primary Sources:

### Account by Samuel Cooper

This fascinating account came directly from one of the participants. Unlike some other accounts that were re-told by biographers this one was actually written by Mr. Cooper himself. It is not exactly known when the manuscript was written, but at the time of the Party Cooper was only 16 years old and for many people the events that occur at this age remain in memory quite clearly.

The duty on tea gave great umbrage to the colonists generally and in Boston an association was formed in 1770 to drink no tea until the duty was repealed. This course was persisted in 1773 the arrival of 3 ships from England laden with tea caused great disgust.

No little excitement prevailed among the inhabitants of Boston, on account of the arrival of the ships laden with tea from England. Every effort was made to send these ships back but without success and it was soon evident that the tea would be landed unless some active measures were adopted by the citizens to prevent it. A town meeting was called on the afternoon of December 16, 1773 to devise measures for getting rid of this annoyance. At this meeting, which was held in the Old South Meeting House corner of Main and Milk Street, Jno. Hancock presided.

A little before sundown an alarm was created among the assembled citizens by the cry of fire, which was suppose to be given by some of the British officers who had attended the meeting in citizen dress and had given the alarm for the purpose of breaking up the assembly. They had nearly effected this object when the town clerk, Wm. Cooper rose and in a loud voice told the citizens that there was no fire to be apprehended but the fire of the British and begged them to keep their plaices.

Immediately after a detach't of about 20 men disguised as Indians was seen to approach in single file by the west door of the Church. They marched with silent steps down the isle and so passed by the south door brandishing their tommahaws [tomahawks] in that direction. The appearance of these men created some sensation. No one appeared to expect their arrival and the object of their visit seemed wholly inexplicable. On leaving the church, they proceeded in the same order in which they entered it, down Milk Street through that part of town which led to Gray's and Tiletson's wharves where the tea ships lay.

Arrived at the wharves they divided into three troops each with a leader gained possession of the ships quietly and proceeded to lighten them of their cargo by hoisting out the boxes and emptying their contents into the dock. No noise was heard except the occasional clink of the hatchet in opening the boxes and the whole business was performed with so much expedition that before 10 o'clock that night the entire cargo of the three vessels were deposited in the docks.

Many a wishful eye was directed to the piles of tea which lay in the docks and one poor fellow (5) who could not resist the temptation had filled the lining of his cloak with about a bushel of the plants. He was soon observed by the crowd and the process of lightening him of his burden was short. He was dragged a little distance on the wharf to a barrel and was soon furnished with a coat of tar and shavings.

## Example of Secondary Sources:

### **The American View**

Victory in the French and Indian War was costly for the British. At the war's conclusion in 1763, King George III and his government looked to taxing the American colonies as a way of recouping their war costs. They were also looking for ways to reestablish control over the colonial governments that had become increasingly independent while the Crown was distracted by the war. Royal ineptitude compounded the problem. A series of actions including the Stamp Act (1765), the Townsend Acts (1767) and the Boston Massacre (1770) agitated the colonists, straining relations with the mother country. But it was the Crown's attempt to tax tea that spurred the colonists to action and laid the groundwork for the American Revolution.

The colonies refused to pay the levies required by the Townsend Acts claiming they had no obligation to pay taxes imposed by a Parliament in which they had no representation. "Taxation without representation is tyranny," In response, Parliament retracted the taxes with the exception of a duty on tea - a demonstration of Parliament's ability and right to tax the colonies. In May of 1773 Parliament concocted a clever plan. They gave the struggling East India Company a monopoly on the importation of tea to America. Additionally, Parliament reduced the duty the colonies would have to pay for the imported tea. The Americans would now get their tea at a cheaper price than ever before. [Colonists smuggled tea from the Dutch however it cost more due to this act]

However, if the colonies paid the duty tax on the imported tea they would be acknowledging Parliament's right to tax them. Tea was a staple of colonial life - it was assumed that the colonists would rather pay the tax than deny themselves the pleasure of a cup of tea. "

### **The British Side**

At considerable expense, Britain had won France's North American territory in the Seven Years' War (1756-1763). Britain now faced a large postwar debt and the responsibility of additional land to protect and govern. Highly burdened by taxes themselves, the British were merely asking the colonies to bear the expense of their own administration and defense. As each proposed revenue bill met with opposition, it was repealed, Parliament being anxious to appease the colonies. But such "lenity" only encouraged additional disobedience, which was skillfully orchestrated by colonial propagandists. The Boston Massacre of 1770, during which redcoats fired on a mob owing to extreme provocation, was played up as if hundreds of colonists had been killed instead of five.

Scarcely noted in the British press at first, the Boston Tea Party was magnified from a simple matter of destruction of property into an intolerable insult to British authority. Chiefly responsible for the incident were Sam Adams, a tough and cunning professional politician, who was said to control two Boston mobs

which he exploited for his own personal gain and glory, and the rich and vain businessman John Hancock, later described as "an elegant revolutionary" of the "native governing class of merchants and landowners whose interests were threatened by imperial policies and by the barrier to obtaining western land." These "incendiaries" used all manner of intimidation, even tarring and feathering loyal subjects of the king, to undermine their own current democratic self-rule, although British lawyers determined after careful consideration that the rebels were not guilty of high treason -- yet.

Thanks to the political and physical difficulties of conducting such a huge overseas operation, the world's greatest power was defeated by a ragged band of revolutionaries. But the loss of the American colonies, as formalized by the Treaty of Paris in 1783, was taken by the British with characteristic aplomb -- rather as if a group of businessmen were closing down an unprofitable branch, it was said.

### **Economic causes of the Boston Tea Party**

In 1773 the East India Company was one of the strongholds of British economy. Suddenly it found itself at odds with the American non-importation restrictions on tea and with a huge inventory it could not move.

The company was not able to meet its payment on dividends and loans and was moving towards bankruptcy. Of course the British government was reluctant to let it happen from fear that this may disrupt financial markets. As an alternative to a direct loan the Ministry decided to allow the company to send tea to America without paying an export duty.

The king and Lord North, losing sight of the principle involved, foolishly thought this measure would quiet the Americans, "for," North said, "men will always go to the cheapest markets." So another opportunity for reconciliation was lost. In May, Parliament passed an act in accordance with the king's desires, for so favoring the East India Company--a vast monopoly sitting heavily on the commercial enterprise of England--while respectful petitions and remonstrances from his loyal subjects in America, touching the highest interests of the nation, were treated with scorn.

The king, in answer to such papers, announced that he considered his "authority to make laws in Parliament of sufficient force and validity to bind his subjects in America in all cases whatsoever, as essential to the dignity of the crown, and a right appertaining to the state, which it was his duty to preserve entire and inviolate;" and he expressed his displeasure because, in their petitions and remonstrances, that right was brought into question.

The East India Company, hoping, yet doubting, accepted the proposed arrangement. In August they received a proper license, and filled ships with cargoes of tea for American ports. Agents were appointed at all the sea-ports to receive the tea, and relief for the embarrassed company seemed to be nigh. They were warned by Franklin and other Americans that they would suffer loss by the operation, for their countrymen would not accept the new arrangement. But Lord North quieted the fears of the Company by saying: "It is no purpose making objections, for the king will have it so. He means to try the question with the Americans."

The committees of correspondence soon produced unity of sentiment on that point throughout the colonies. Public meetings were held. Mutual support was pledged; the agents or consignees were requested to resign, and when the tea-ships arrived, they were not allowed in some places to discharge their cargoes. The spirit of the stamp-act days was aroused.

[illegible]

TEAM_1	# of Times Spoken				TEAM_2	# of Times Spoken		
	1	2	3			1	2	3

	Team A				Team B		
DEBATE CRITERIA	Strong 3 pts	Adequate 2pts	Weak 1pt		Strong 3 pts	Adequate 2pts	Weak 1pt
Debaters support claims with <i>convincing</i> evidence (examples, details, etc)							
Debaters acknowledge <i>counter-argument</i> & offer <i>rebuttals</i>							
Debaters present <i>clear, original</i> , and <i>well-thought</i> out ideas							
Debaters <i>avoid being redundant</i> /avoid repeating ideas							
Debaters are <i>focused</i> and work as a <i>team</i> —everyone contributes.							
Debaters used <i>appropriate language</i> to discuss ideas							
Debaters spoke clearly and at a volume you could hear							
Debaters were <i>respectful</i> and displayed <i>self-control</i> (do not interrupt speakers)							
<b>TOTALS</b>							