

Chapter Five
Primary Source Exercise
HIST 2111 FA 19

Reading:

Resolutions of the First Continental Congress (October, 1774):

<http://www.let.rug.nl/usa/documents/1751-1775/first-continental-congress-october-1774.php>

After you have read the primary source listed above (as well as Chapter Five, and watched the video for this module), answer the following questions, based on what you know about the beginnings of the American War for Independence, as well as what you know about relations between the British Government and their North American colonies generally:

1. Who is the author of this text? That is, who does the author claim to be, and whom do you suspect the author actually might be? Put another way, whose voices are represented in this text, and whose voices are not represented? Why might this distinction be important? Can you find an example from the text?

2. What sorts of injustices do the authors of this text identify? What grounds do the authors offer for objecting to these actions? Why? Can you find an example from the text?

3. To what degree do these authors call for independence from Great Britain? Why? Can you find an example from the text?

4. How would you characterize the tone of this text? Why is it so? Can you find an example from the text?

5. How does this text's creation fit into the larger context of events related in Chapter Five?