

PBS Kids Writers Contest



Fifth Grade Lesson Plan

Voices of The American Revolution: Then and Now

Learning Objectives

Essential Question: “When is change necessary, and how should it happen?”

Students will be able to compare historical and modern efforts for change

Students will write creatively and thoughtfully about change

Introducing the American Revolution

When we hear the word “revolution”, we often think of battles and famous leaders.

A revolution is really about big change.

Examples include the American Revolution, civil rights movements, and school or community changes.

Visual Aid

The Revolution started with ideas, not battles.

Share an excerpt from a letter or newspaper written during the American Revolution.

Discussion questions could include “What problems were people trying to solve?” & “What methods did they use to push for change?”

Writers Contest Connection

Students all across our state are sharing stories about changes they'd like to make!

Activity: Creating Change Today

Ask students how people attempt to create change today. Possible student ideas include:

Writing letters or petitions

Peaceful protests

Social Media Campaigns

School clubs such as student council

Helping others directly

Introduce these writing format options:

Narrative: A made-up story where a character wants something to change.

Essay: An opinion about a change you think should happen.

Letter: A message asking someone or something for change or explaining an idea.

Encourage students to choose one of these formats when thinking about the writers contest prompt.

Writers Contest Prompt: “Write about a change you or a character hopes for, and the steps it would take to make it real.”

Ideas can be big or small, real or imagined. This is your chance to share an idea that matters to you!

