

PBS Kids Writers Contest



Fourth Grade Lesson Plan

Voices of The American Revolution: Then and Now

Learning Objectives

Essential Question: “What does freedom mean to you?”

Students will be able to connect historical ideas of freedom to their own lives

Students will be able to write an opinion using evidence and reasoning

Introducing the American Revolution

During the American Revolution, freedom meant having the right to make choices, speak up, and help decide how things are run.

Visual Aid

Read an excerpt from a letter or article written during the American Revolution. Discussion questions could include “Who do you think wrote this?”, “What kind of freedom are they talking about?”, and “Who might disagree or be left out?”

Writers Contest Connection

Students all across our state are sharing stories about what freedom means to them!

Activity: Opinion Writing Workshop

Introduce these key concepts:

Claim: What you believe

Evidence: Examples or reasons

Reasoning: How evidence supports the claim

Example: “Freedom means being able to express myself through the clothing I wear. This is important because it makes me feel comfortable, confident, and able to take on the day.”

Encourage students to think about other ways we use freedom today. What responsibilities come with freedom? What happens if freedom is not protected?

Writers Contest Prompt: “What does freedom mean to you, and why is it important to protect it?”

Students may write from a personal experience, a historical idea, or even an imagined scenario!

