**Subject area/course**: History/U.S. History

**Grade level/band**: 11

**Task source**: Summit Public Schools

**American Revolution FRQ**

**STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS**

1. **Task context**:

What motivates people to violently revolt? What conditions drive revolutions?

The study of history is indeed worthwhile and necessary for the education of effective citizens. Historical knowledge is a thoroughly constructive and critically constructed collective memory. Historians often use the lessons from history to guide solutions to modern day problems. “Broadening our humanity and extending our sensibilities by recognizing sameness and difference throughout the recorded past is therefore an important reason for studying history, and especially the history of people far away and long ago. For we can only know ourselves by knowing how we resemble and how we differ from others” (McNeill, 1985). Self knowledge comes from an intimate relationship with the past and is why it is indeed worthwhile to vigorously pursue the study of history, American or global.

The American Revolution had a profound effect on the world. In North America, the Revolution led to the birth of the United States and documents such as the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution. Other countries saw the founding of the United States as an inspiration, a new hope and led revolts against their own government.

1. **Final product**:

Choose one question from the list below to respond to in an essay. You are advised to brainstorm for this essay before you write it. Cite relevant historical evidence in support of your generalizations and present your arguments clearly and logically.

1. “Despite the view of some historians that the conflict between Great Britain and its thirteen North American colonies was economic in origin, in fact the American Revolution had its roots in politics and other areas of American life.” Assess the validity of this statement.
2. Evaluate the relative importance of each of the following as factors prompting Americans to rebel in 1776:
   * Parliamentary taxation
   * British military measures
   * Restriction of civil liberties
   * The legacy of colonial religious and political ideas

**Additional Information**

1. **Knowledge and skills you will need to demonstrate on this task:**

* There are many events and reasons that led to the American Revolution.

1. **Materials needed:**

* Item A. Checklist for FRQ

1. **Time requirements:**

This task will take approximately 2-3 days to complete.

1. **Scoring:**

Your work will be scored using the American Revolution FRQ Rubric. You should make sure you are familiar with the language that describes the expectations for proficient performance.