

Group Members—List Below
Adams
English 5, Period:
Date:

The Crisis

Exceeds 100%	Meets 85%	Approaches 70%	Falls Far Below REVISE	×2

Deadline: By the beginning of class tomorrow!

Thomas Paine wrote *Common Sense*, but perhaps one of his more quotable works is *The Crisis*. Read the following paragraph and answer the questions that follow with a paragraph for each.

December 23, 1776

THESE are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands by it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly: it is dearness only that gives every thing its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as FREEDOM should not be highly rated. Britain, with an army to enforce her tyranny, has declared that she has a right (not only to TAX) but "to BIND us in ALL CASES WHATSOEVER" and if being bound in that manner, is not slavery, then is there not such a thing as slavery upon earth. Even the expression is impious; for so unlimited a power can belong only to God.

	"These are the times that try men's souls" is a famous statement that is referenced by writers in every generation. Paine was writing about The American Revolution, but how is it relevant today? (Think of any major events that happened during your lifetime.)
	In the second sentence, he is basically saying both "talk is cheap" and "support the troops." When he says "summer soldier," what does he mean? What type of people is he talking about? List their traits and qualities.
	Paine, like most authors of the time, uses references to religion frequently. Why? In what specific ways would this influence people, and what are some examples of people using religion in speeches which are not primarily about religion today?
	"The harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph" is a sentiment which was echoed not long after by Nietzsche's "What does not destroy me, makes me stronger." Is this true? Give at least three examples as to why or why not.
	"What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly": Do Americans in 2013 have the same concept of hard work as in 1776? What is the same and different? Is this a good or bad thing?
	At the end when he compares American subservience to the British, he compares it to slavery. Is this ironic? How would this statement be interpreted by pro-slavery and anti-slavery revolutionaries of the day?

These questions should be divided evenly amongst you, with no more than three (3) in a group. (You may also work in a pair or by yourself, but your workload will increase accordingly.) **Discuss each of the questions thoroughly** before beginning to write.



Paine