

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Stamp Act Argumentative Essay

Read the following documents and then write a 4 paragraph argumentative essay answering the following central question:

Was the Stamp Act a fair tax to place on the 13 colonists?

Document A- a letter published in the Boston Gazette, October 7, 1765

My Dear Countrymen,

AWAKE! Awake, my countrymen and defeat those who want to enslave us. Do not be cowards. You were born in Britain, the Land of Light, and you were raised in America, the Land of Liberty. It is your duty to fight this tax. Future generations will bless your efforts and honor the memory of the saviors of their country.

I urge you to tell your representatives that you do not support this terrible and burdensome law. Let them know what you think. They should act as guardians of the liberty of their country.

I look forward to congratulating you on delivering us from the enemies of truth and liberty.

Document B- a letter written in a London newspaper but published in the Boston Gazette, January 27, 1766, two months after the Act went into effect

The riotous behavior of the people on Boston is remarkable. I would have been less surprised by their behavior if we had taxed their beer, because everyone drinks beer. But the Stamp Act is a tax on none of the necessities of life. It does not affect the poor. And even a poor person can afford this little amount of money. The tax on newspapers only affects the rich. Common people do not purchase the

newspapers. The first newspaper, that is, the Boston Gazette, has begun to fight against this tax even before it has officially gone into effect?