

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **Persuasive Writing Task**

### **Patriotic letter—Boycotting the Use of Tea**

#### **Activating Prior Knowledge:**

Colonists were becoming increasingly opposed to the various types of taxes being imposed on them from British officials. Elizabeth Murray, a Bostonian shopkeeper who imported British goods herself, argued in favor of the colonial protesters' actions to boycott the use of tea. She believed that those who opposed British policy saw it as their "duty to stand up for so valuable a country & not be tax'd to feed the worst set of men that ever lived."

#### **Writing the Persuasive Letter:**

Write a letter in which you try to persuade your family members to boycott the use of British imported tea. Be sure to give at least three reasons for joining the tea boycott. Think about the best order to present your reasons. Do you want to present your strongest argument first or last? Remember, be as persuasive as you can. You would like to have your family members rally around you as you join in the boycott of British tea.

#### **Checklist for your writing:**

The following checklist will help you do your best work:

- Remember to use letter writing format: -- **date** (use any date from June 1769 through 1774), **greeting, closing**.
- Create an **introductory paragraph** telling your family what you are doing and why.
- Par. 2, 3, 4 give solid **reasons why** your family should join the tea boycott. Include examples of how their joining the boycott with you would be to their advantage.
- Par. 5—**conclusion**—summarize your feelings for your family and tell them where and how they can meet you if they decide to join in the boycott as a protest against British officials.
- Use accurate historical details from class discussions, the history text, videos, and other historical resources.
- Use transition words to help your letter flow.
- Use correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation.