Loyalist or Patriot: The Arguments

Directions for using this resource:

1. Choose a side you will support, loyalist or patriot.
2. Following your rubric, choose 3 arguments from your chosen side. You will develop a paragraph for each of these arguments. (You might come up with arguments of your own and that is fine. This is just meant to help get you started.)
3. Research each argument and find at least 3 pieces of support for each. Fill in your hand out and be sure to keep track of your sources as you go along.

These are some examples of arguments you might use in your paper.

Loyalists

1. A strong unified British Empire is good for all.
2. Colonists are British subjects and should obey British law
3. Taxes are due to pay for the French & Indian War which was fought to protect the colonies.
4. American colonies would be weak without Britain.
6. All of Britain is subject to “virtual representation” so if that type of representation is OK for people living in Britain it should be OK for people living in America.

Patriots

1. People have rights government can’t take away, like property
2. Taxation takes away property from citizens (i.e. - money and goods)
3. Colonists don’t have voice in Parliament, so England shouldn’t tax colonies (No taxation without representation)
4. There’s no way colonies could ever be represented in Parliament because it is too far away.
5. Many colonists fought in the French & Indian War (we’ve done our part)
6. British personnel are causing violence, riots, and death (Boston Massacre & Boston Tea Party)

The statements above are only basic arguments. Now you need supporting ideas. Below you will find links to some resources you can use to find this support BUT BE SURE TO KEEP TRACK OF THE SOURCE FOR EACH SUPPORTING IDEA! You will need the source to create your IN-TEXT CITATIONS while writing your paper.

Use this link to find resources about the different issues facing the colonists.
http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/related/index.htm

This is an article about the Stamp Act and “virtual representation.” Has a side by side comparison of some of the arguments and support for those arguments both sides would make.
http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/teachers/lesson_plans/pdfs/unit1_7.pdf

This article is about why the colonists wanted to leave British rule. (High reading level but lots of good support for your arguments.)
http://www.historytoday.com/ian-r-christie/american-revolution-1783

Read about the consequences of the French and Indian War for both sides. You know the British won the war so scroll down the page and find the section titled “Consequences of the War.”
http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/lessonplan/frenchindian.asp