

# CAUSES OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION READING ACTIVITY

## PRE-SEMINAR PREPARATION

### DIRECTIONS:

- Read and highlight with marking notes in the margins the hand out: “French Revolution: Was There a Causal Relationship between the American and French Revolutions?” History in Dispute, Volume 12: The American Revolution. p. 127-134.
- You will be assigned a particular viewpoint and a partner to work with for the first part of the hour.
- Take careful notes with respect to the prompts that follow because you will be paired later with someone with the opposing viewpoint to exchange information.

### TASKS:

1. Analyze the argument made by the author(s) of your assigned viewpoint. How does the author(s) support the claim? Identify *specific examples* from the text...provide *page numbers* to your references.

<b>Viewpoint 1:</b> Yes. The American Revolution facilitated the French Revolution.	<b>Viewpoint 2:</b> No. The French did not need an American example to incite them to revolution.

OVER...

2. Which evidence did you find most convincing and central to the argument of the author(s) point of view?

<b>Viewpoint 1:</b> Yes. The American Revolution facilitated the French Revolution.	<b>Viewpoint 2:</b> No. The French did not need an American example to incite them to revolution.

3. What information seemed out of place or irrelevant to the author’s viewpoint? Explain why?

<b>Viewpoint 1:</b> Yes. The American Revolution facilitated the French Revolution.	<b>Viewpoint 2:</b> No. The French did not need an American example to incite them to revolution.

4. **TERMS:** Use the text to write brief definitions for the following: Country Ideology (128), Americanistes (128), Estates-General, Cahiers des doléances (129, 133), Diamond Necklace Affair (131), bourgeoisie (132), Three Estates (132), libelles (133)

**SUMMARY:** Discuss the following questions with your partner after you have exchanged and discussed the information for tasks 1-3. Write down your comments on another piece of paper and attach if needed.

1. What if the American Revolution had not taken place? Would the French have still had a revolution? Give reasons for your answers.
2. If there was a direct causality between the American and French revolutions, why did the people of France wait until 1789 to revolt?