

Hi Jonas!

My name is Lindsey and I'll be responding to your answers for this unit. First, congratulations on completing this unit! This is a unit that ranges far and wide—all over the globe and through many years of history. I hope you found it interesting. Now let's talk about your responses!

1. Good—those are three excellent examples of when a revolution may take place. All three situations could create a scenario in which the employees become so desperate that they take extreme action. By the way, a revolution on a ship has a special name—mutiny—and it has occurred many times throughout history. Also, there has been a revolution in farm fields as well. Have you heard of Cesar Chavez? He organized farm workers into a union so they could demand better pay and treatment (although there are still injustices to deal with in farm work). But, I think we're still waiting on an effective revolution in the fast food restaurants. The closest we've come so far is the Occupy Wall Street movement where people protested against economic inequality in the USA. What do you think it will take for the fast food workers of the country to band together and rise up? Do you think they should?
2. I like your choice for this answer. I agree—Patrick Henry's quotation is inspiring. Read this quote again. Why do you prefer his quote to the others? What makes it so moving and inspiring? I think that one thing he does very well is to appeal to his listener's emotions. The heart, not the head, is usually what leads us into extreme action—especially when that action may put our lives in danger. Do you agree or disagree? Here's a tip if you ever want to come up with a slogan or quotation that people will remember: do as Patrick Henry does. Make it short and sweet, but also touch your listeners' hearts.
3. Well put! This is a clear explanation of what Marx hoped to achieve by overthrowing the Russian monarchy. Great job! One of the things I like about Marx's quote is that he seems to be pointing out that the Russian people are so downtrodden that they already have nothing--therefore if they revolt, they can only gain. Only people who feel that the current regime offers them nothing will revolt. Other people don't want to risk whatever security they already have. It takes a desperate man to join a revolution, and, in his quote, Marx is trying to make his listeners understand that they should feel desperate.
4. Awesome! Did you see what you did with this exercise? You drew the reader in by saying "Would **you** rather live... and enjoy the fruits of **your** own labor...." Now your reader is invested in your argument and willing to contemplate taking drastic action to improve their lives. Great!!
5. You use another effective tool for persuasion in your letter here. You say, "When will we be able to just respect and admire one another in a dignified way?" This is called a rhetorical question, and it is a fantastic way to pull your reader in and force them to think actively about the problem you are discussing. I like your argument in this letter, especially your final point about how we are so advanced technologically yet cannot seem to advance socially/morally. Good job taking on this big and very up-to-the-moment issue!
6. That's a valid choice, for sure. There are some groups, like the Quakers (another religious group a little bit like the Pilgrims), who believe that violence is always wrong. So when faced with the choice between fighting or leaving, they chose to leave. Good for you for knowing where you stand on this issue. Now I'm going to play devil's advocate for a moment: what would you say to someone who believed that you have a duty to stay and try to improve your country rather than leave it to fall to

ruin? What does a person owe to their country when they disagree with the way the country is being governed?

7. I think you're right in your sense that there are times when compromise is impossible. I've heard compromise described as "an agreement in which neither party is happy with the outcome." That seems to be true sometimes. For this question specifically, I think the question isn't explained very well. The revolution it refers to here is the American Revolution in 1776, which occurred much later than the English revolution that is discussed in question #6. The colonists had left England many years before, so leaving now is no longer an option. So to rephrase the question, do you think that the colonists in America would have been able to reach a compromise with the English government over whether the colony should pay taxes to England without having a say in making English laws?
8. That's a wonderful list! Awesome! Have you ever had a boss, manager, or teacher who embodied any of these qualities? What was it like working for them or learning from them? They may not have been actual kings, but they had some control over you and your actions. Anyone who has power over another person should try to model these good qualities as much as possible.
9. Very good! You've written a scene in which a king shows some of those qualities that you listed in question #8. I love how dramatic this scene is and how willing the king is to right the wrong that has been done to the pauper. Have you ever noticed how difficult it is to admit when you've made a mistake? It's natural to feel defensive when someone points out our failings. But here, you've let the king rise above that basic human instinct and do the right thing.
10. You're thinking tactically here! Great! The peasants do have the advantage of knowing the land and of simply having more members than the ruling class. In many countries, those particular advantages translate into guerrilla warfare. Think of uprisings in Central and South America or in Spain in the twentieth century. Those civil wars were (and some are still ongoing) fought by poor folk who could skirmish with the government forces and then melt into the landscape. They could travel fast, they could blend in with the locals, and they could strike without warning. Can you think of any downsides to the peasants fighting on their own soil? One that comes to mind for me is that peasants usually don't have access to the same level of weaponry that the government has. What else can you think of?
11. Yes! This is great! In particular, the first two sentences are wonderful emotional pleas that would be hard for a down-trodden population to resist. Well done!
12. Awesome! Wow, you've really figured out how to inhabit both points of view in this question and the previous question! That's impressive. I think the most persuasive aspect of this speech is that the leader appeals to the people by dangling an elusive dream before their noses. "With time, you'll be successful. Just wait." Well, the idea that success is coming my way is pretty tantalizing, and if I really believe that, I won't want to do anything to screw it up. I think this is a fantastic argument to make. It works, too! Take the idea of the American Dream, for instance. What is that if not a promise to the poor that if they wait, keep their heads down, and keep on working hard they will someday be rich and successful? That if they play nice and don't stir up trouble, they will someday be able to partake in the peace and security of the nation. Do you agree? Do you believe that the American Dream is possible for anyone to achieve
13. This is a powerful poem. I love the final image! Perfect!
14. Yes! That is so well put! You see the subtleties and nuances of balancing efficiency and freedom. Very good.

15. Nice. This sounds almost like a newspaper headline, too. If it were a newspaper headline, what would you write in the article?
16. That's exactly right! In most cultures throughout history, women have been treated as second-class citizens. At best, they were 'angels,' gentle creatures who needed protection, and at worst women were meant for hard work and child bearing. They were not thought of as worth educating or employing in most fields. Do you think that attitude is changing nowadays?
17. This is an interesting answer! Expand on that idea a little bit. What type of religion—all religions or one in particular? And what specifically about religion 'washes away the dust of everyday life'? Is it the theology or the sense of grace that comes from worship or something else? I think you're right—religion does have the potential to help a person feel cleansed or free, but in a different way for each person, I bet.
18. Great example! Rap music was invented and popularized mostly by African-American artists but has definitely spread throughout America and is enjoyed by people from many different backgrounds.
19. Nice! This is a great addition to the poem. I love your first sentences, contrasting the idea of culture clash with smiling faces! Very well done! Have you ever lived in a place with a lot of diversity? What was it like? Did you feel like you fit in or did you feel like an outsider? Did you feel self-conscious or free to be yourself?
20. I like the line you wrote! It does a great job of changing the tone of the piece from your description of it as "funny in a defeatist way" to funny in a devil-may-care, joyful way. To contrast your point of view, I had a different reaction to the song—I felt that it was about honoring what is important in life and letting go of what isn't important. Though we each had a different response to the song, we are both equally right! That is the wonderful thing about art of all kinds—the same piece of art (song, book, painting, etc.) can have very different effects on different people. Can you think of a time when you and a friend disagreed about what a piece of art meant—maybe a song or a movie that you both heard or watched? Why do you think you each felt so differently?
21. Great! You pinpointed the most important meaning of his question "What did I do to be so black and blue?" In this song, Louis Armstrong is playing around a little with the meaning of the words "black and blue." In each verse, he uses the phrase in a slightly different way. In the first verse, as he sleeps on a hard bed, "black and blue" can mean "bruised." And in later verses, "black and blue" means "sad" or "depressed." In the final verse, the emphasis is on the "black" part of the phrase—referring to his skin color and how being black has made his life more difficult. Great job with this question—this song, like many blues songs, is chock full of meaning!
22. Oh, you make a neat connection here between rock 'n roll and punk music! I'd love to know more about that. What specifically do these two types of music share? How did punk evolve from rock and roll? They sound so different and yet it's intriguing to think that one evolved from the other!
23. Good job! Your drawing depicts some of the common themes of hip-hop songs—guns, cars, danger, violence. Great! And don't ever worry about how well you draw for these courses. Whenever you are asked to draw something (and that could come up in any unit, as you've just discovered), just do your best and focus on the content of your drawing instead of how good or bad you think it is. The content is the most important part! And keep this in mind: drawing is a skill that anyone can learn with practice—not an in-born talent that only a chosen few have! (There's a neat book called "The Creative License: Giving Yourself Permission to Be the Artist You Truly Are" by Danny Gregory that is a great tool for exploring your artistic side, if you're interested.) Great job with this question!!

24. Yes! That's a great answer! Music truly can have the effect of liberating our minds from the day-to-day customs that we grow up with. It can expand our experience and our empathy. And it encourages us to explore other possible identities. Punk music is a really good example of that. Its message of breaking free from the 'system' is a tantalizing one and, like many other types of music, it comes with a certain style (fashion, musical, etc.) all its own. So you can slip that identity on, try it out, and see if it works for you. When I was a teenager, I also got into the punk scene a bit, and it really was exhilarating! I completely agree with your assessment!
25. Yes, I think I see what you are getting at here. You believe musicians should be in it for the art, not for the money. Otherwise, their 'art' is meaningless. Great. I think that's a valid argument. Many people, myself included, would agree with you. Nothing is a greater insult to an artist than to call him or her a sell-out! But let me offer a flipside to think about as well: why do we as a culture believe that artists should not be paid well for their work? The idea of a starving artist *seems* so authentic, but no other profession is required to be as anti-materialistic (except maybe priests/nuns). Why do we pay doctors/lawyers/engineers top dollar for their services, but we expect artists to work for a pittance? What needs to change in our culture to fix that discrepancy, do you think? We say art is important, but we tend to look down on artists who expect to be paid well for their 'important' work. It's a tough question, I think! What do you think?
26. Yes, the lyrics of a song can strongly influence how that song makes a listener feel. Good. What do you think about the music itself? Do you think that something loud and brash vs. something quiet and soft can create different emotions in the listener? Wouldn't it be an interesting experiment to take the same lyrics and put them in two totally different styles of music and see what effect that has on the listener?

You did a great job with this unit! Isn't it interesting to see how revolutions in different countries and in different eras have so much in common? Why do you think that might be?

Good luck with your next unit!

Sincerely,
Lindsey