**Source A – *The Bloody Massacre Perpetrated in King Street* by Paul Revere, 1770**  
Source Type: Engraving  
*Courtesy of Library of Congress*   
  
**Background Information:** Paul Revere used his depiction of the “Boston Massacre” to inflame public opinion against the British. Many American colonists believed that the British military presence in Boston was unnecessary and a break from the normal relationship between England and her colonies.



**Source B – Excerpt: George Washington to George William Fairfax, May 31, 1775**  
Source Type: Letter

**Background Information:** George Washington was a loyal British subject until the outbreak of war at Lexington and Concord. While it is true that he had been previously unhappy with certain British policies, it was not until May of 1775 that Washington understood that only war could remedy the oppressive nature of the British government.

1. Unhappy it is though to reflect, that a Brother’s Sword has been sheathed in a Brother’s breast,
2. and that, the once happy and peaceful plains of America are either to be drenched with Blood, or
3. Inhabited by Slaves. Sad alternative! But can a virtuous Man hesitate in his choice?

**Source C – Excerpt: *Civil Disobedience*, Henry David Thoreau, 1849**  
Source Type: Essay

**Background Information:** Henry David Thoreau was a fierce critic of the Mexican War. He viewed it as an unjust land-grab by the United States government in an attempt to spread slavery.

1. I heartily accept the motto, ‘That government is best which governs least’; and I should like to see
2. it acted up to more rapidly and systematically. Carried out, it finally amounts to this, which also I
3. believe - ‘That government is best which governs not at all’; and when men are prepared for it
4. that will be the kind of government which they will have. Government is at best but an expedient;
5. but most governments are usually, and all governments are sometimes, inexpedient. The
6. objections which have been brought against a standing army, and they are many and weighty, and
7. deserve to prevail, may also at last be brought against a standing government. The standing army
8. is only an arm of the standing government. The government itself, which is only the mode which
9. have chosen to execute their will, is equally liable to be abused and perverted before the people
10. can act through it. Witness the present Mexican war, the work of comparatively a few individuals
11. using the standing government as their tool; for, in the outset, the people would not have
12. consented to this measure.

**Source D – Excerpt: *Letter from Birmingham Jail*, Martin Luther King Jr., 1963**  
Source Type: Essay

**Background Information:** Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights marchers were arrested in Birmingham, Alabama for taking part of what the Birmingham authorities declared an illegal demonstration. While imprisoned, King wrote an impassioned letter to the clergy of Birmingham, who stood silent in the face of the oppression of African-Americans.

1. You deplore the demonstrations that are presently taking place in Birmingham. But I am sorry
2. that your statement did not express a similar concern for the conditions that brought the
3. demonstrations into being. I am sure that each of you would want to go beyond the superficial
4. social analyst who looks merely at effects and does not grapple with underlying causes. I would
5. not hesitate to say that full confidence of a happy meeting with you sometime in the fall…I retain
6. an unalterable it is unfortunate that so-called demonstrations are taking place in Birmingham at
7. this time, but I would say in more emphatic terms that it is even more unfortunate that the white
8. power structure of this city left the Negro community with no other alternative.

**Source E –*A Ride for Liberty* by Eastman Johnson, ca. 1862**  
Source Type: Painting  
*Courtesy of Brooklyn Museum*

**Background Information:** By the 1850’s, the Underground Railroad and other means of escape were employed by enslaved persons to great success, much to the chagrin of their owners.

**Source F – *Suffragettes Picketing the White House in 1917* byHarris & Ewing**  
Source Type: Photograph  
*Courtesy of Library of Congress*

**Background:** Women had been agitating peacefully for the right to vote for quite some time. Since the United States had engaged in World War I to “make the world safe for democracy,” women believed that the fight for democracy also needed to be waged here in America by granting them the franchise.



**Source G – *Kent State/John Paul Filo* by John Paul Filo, May 4, 1970**  
Source Type: Photograph  
*Courtesy of Library of Congress*

**Background:** The Ohio National Guard opened fire on a group of Kent State University students protesting the expansion of the Vietnam War into Cambodia, killing four and wounding nine.



**Source H – *Black Lives Matter* by Jay Mitchell, 2014**  
Source Type: Photograph  
*Courtesy of AP Photo/St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

**Background Information:** The police-involved shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, in 2014 began the “Black Lives Matter” movement; a protest against racial profiling and police brutality in cities and towns across America.

