

GMUNC XII

American

Revolution

Continental Congress

Rania Bhalla • Head Chair
Sophie Dulani • Co-Chair



About Chairs

Rania Bhalla · Head Chair

Hi everyone! My name is Rania Bhalla, and I am so excited to serve as your head chair for GMUNC XII! Currently, I'm a junior here at Gunn High School and also serve as the USG of Training of Gunn's MUN team. Despite this only being my second year in MUN, I've come to love and enjoy it so much, and I am truly honored to be able to share that with all of you. Crisis committees are my favorite, with collaboration, quick decision-making, and thinking outside of the box highlighted. This will be GMUNC XII's only JCC, with our committee serving as the Continental Congress and our joint committee as the British Parliament. Outside of MUN, I enjoy politics, human rights advocacy, and on a less formal note, running, skiing, and swimming. I look forward to meeting all of you in October, and good luck!

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Sophie Dulani · Co-Chair

Hello! My name is Sophie Dulani, and I am so thrilled to serve as your Crisis Director for this year's JCC Crisis Committee. I am a 16-year-old rising junior at Gunn High School, and this will be my second year participating in Model UN. This past year, I have learned a great deal about MUN and have come to love it so much! I have participated in competitions like GMUNC and NMUNC, and particularly enjoy Crisis Committees because of the suspense, plot twists, and quick thinking. I am excited to have the opportunity to assist in creating one based on the Continental Congress. I wish you all the best while drafting your position papers, and I am excited to meet you all soon!

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About Committee

The First Continental Congress is known as one of the first formal meetings of the delegates from each of the American colonies. They were responsible for forming a collective response against the new British policies, in an effort to defend their liberty. This meeting would be one the turning points in their relationship with Britain as it sparked the possibility of resistance, and fostered a sense of union.

The idea of this committee is to focus on the actions of the congress as a whole. Delegates will be expected to take the role of colonial leaders, political figures, and more. You all will navigate one of the most important periods in American history. You will begin at the Intolerable acts, the Sugar Act specifically, and everyone will be expected to engage with one another to make decisions that will shape the future of the colonies.

Important Dates

Oct 4, 2024 - Research award deadline

Oct 10, 2024 - Final position paper deadline

Oct 11, 2024 - Day of conference

Committee Email

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Foreword

Welcome to the Gunn Model United Nations Conference XII and the Continental Congress! Having previously attended GMUNC, I am honored to be a part of this conference again and excited for another memorable year.

This committee explores the tense political situation and growing turmoil within the American colonies, aimed at the British for their harsh taxes and their brutal treatment of any opposition. Your goal as delegates will be to make a critical decision: peace or war? You must consider the wishes of your fellow colonists, the retaliation posed by the British parliament, and the economic, political and social repercussions that will follow. Since this is a crisis committee, crisis updates will occur, and all writing will be done in the form of crisis notes and directives.

Position papers are due on October 4 to be considered for a research award, with the final deadline on October 10. If you do not submit a position paper by this date, you will not be eligible for any committee awards. Please send position papers(in PDF format) and committee-specific inquiries to the committee email address: arjcc.gmuncxii@gmail.com. Additionally, all delegates are required to complete contact and medical forms to participate in the conference. Please confirm with your delegation that the required documents have been submitted. Finally, we have a zero-tolerance policy on the use of AI, and you will be disqualified from any awards if we detect a significant use of AI in your position paper.

Because we are not providing you with background on your committee character, we expect that you all will research your character and his views, ideas, and solutions for peace. We also encourage you to come prepared with new and unique policies, within the historical scope of the colonies and materials, or lack therefore of, provided. We also ask that you listen to(and possibly memorize) the musical Alexander Hamilton, as it will put you in our good graces(this is a joke).

I wish you the best with writing your position papers and look forward to seeing everyone on October 11, 2025, for GMUNC XII.

Rania Bhalla
Head Chair



Introduction

A riot against one of the first policies put in place, the Stamp Act, in New York

Welcome to the Joint Crisis Committee (JCC)! In this committee, we will be focusing on the American Revolution.
The year is 1764.

A year ago, the Treaty of Paris was signed by both parties, ending the French and Indian War. The British were victorious, gaining lots of new territory, but consequences soon followed. The war left Britain in crippling debt, and there are now rumors going through Parliament of plans to make the colonies pay the costs.

There are rumors of enforcing stricter trade laws to turn a larger profit from the colonies, as well as new taxes on basic goods like sugar and paper. This is also to keep a stricter hold on the colonies, as some agree that they have become too independent, and it is time to take back control.

Tension is rising, and no one is sure what this means. Some think that remaining loyal to the British is the right thing to do, and these new policies should be endured. However others argue that taxation without representation violates their liberty.

Delegates, you all must decide what path to take, as whatever decisions you make will alter your nation's history and future for generations to come.

Will you all choose to speak out? Will you gather an army? Or will you make the choice to endure these policies to preserve the peace, but at the cost of your liberty?

Your nation's fate lies in your hands.



Historical Context

Key Terms

Salutary Neglect

An unwritten, unofficial policy of the British that allowed its North American colonies to be left up to their own devices, providing that they remain loyal to the Crown and contribute to the economy. Trade regulations were very leniently enforced, and the Crown allowed internal affairs within the colonies to be left unsupervised. This ended after the French and Indian War, when the British began tightening control and collecting taxes, and it involuntarily contributed to the increasing self-governance of the colonies, eventually leading to American Independence.

Standing Army Debate

After the French and Indian War, despite being ridden with debt, the British parliament stationed roughly 10,000 troops in and around the colonies in order to maintain order and protect its newly gained territory. However, the colonists saw this as a violation of their rights as Englishmen, set down in the English Bill of Rights, perceiving this 'standing army' as an unnecessary and threatening show of force by the British.

Writs of Assistance

Beginning in 1760, a set of general and broad search warrants that allowed for British officers and officials to search homes and ships for stolen or smuggled goods without probable cause or permission, or by needing an individual search warrant. The colonists

were extremely unhappy with this, arguing it was a violation of their rights and their privacy. Spurred suspicions and distrust toward the British and their abuse of power.

Mercantilism

A popular economic philosophy in the 18th century driving British policies, which said that colonies were the "moneymakers" for the "mother country" and existed to enrich Britain using trade. The British sought to control trade and extract revenue from the colonies after the war, in order to alleviate their war debt.

Navigation Acts

With its enforcement beginning after 1763 and the wars' end, these were a series of English laws enacted to restrict colonial trade, in order to benefit Britain and its economy. This would ensure that there would be no competition from outside nations, such as Spain and France, along with attempting to eliminate smuggling, which was common at the time. These acts were created in order to implement mercantilist policies.

"No Taxation Without Representation"

Though at the time not yet widespread, the foundations of this principle were beginning to be laid as the colonists began to question the British Parliament's power and authority to tax them directly, having no elected colonial representation in Parliament. This principle is also intertwined with the Virtual Representation principle.

Colonial Assemblies

Colonial assemblies were elected legislative bodies, responsible for collecting taxes and making laws, however, they needed to be approved by the British government before going into effect. Over time, the king began sending and appointing his own governors and councilors within the colonies, who resented these attempts to override their authority.

Rights of Englishmen

As subjects of the Crown, the colonists believed the rights of Englishmen, distributed in the English Bill of Rights, also extended to them. These included legal rights such as property rights, trial by jury, and representation in government.

Virtual Representation

Virtual Representation is an argument the British government used to explain the lack of representation within Parliament. The British argued that Parliament represented all British subjects, despite colonists not voting for any of the members. This was fiercely rejected by colonists, who demanded for actual representation of the colonies within Parliament.

Iroquois Confederacy

A powerful alliance of Native American tribes through North America who assisted both diplomatically and played a military role in the French and Indian war. While they initially aligned with the British, they began

questioning their loyalty after the Treaty of Paris had been signed.

Fort Mifflin(1776)

A poorly and hastily constructed fort built by George Washington and his troops. This is where he surrendered to the French, after attempting to lead an expedition against them. While he lost, this marked the beginning of his military career.

Albany Congress (1754)

A meeting of representatives from each of the thirteen colonies in Albany, New York. This Congress was convened to address issues of defense against the French and attempts to improve relations with the Iroquois Confederacy.

Treaty of Fontainebleau (1763)

A secret treaty signed in 1763, between France and Spain, creating peace efforts as the war was ending. This treaty is how France gave Spain its Louisiana Territory, effectively losing all of its territory in North America. This treaty was not made public until 1764.

Background

The decade 1754-1764 proved to be a critical period in history, one that would alter the distribution of power and set the stage for the American Revolution to come. What began as a territorial dispute between Britain and France soon evolved into a transatlantic war, sparking the final quarrel between the American colonies and the British Empire.

In 1754, fighting broke out between Great Britain and France, both vying for control over the Ohio River Valley, eventually drawing in Native Americans on both sides, before spreading to Europe, Asia, Africa, and even the Caribbean. This struggle for territory would last from 1754 to 1763, eventually named the 'Seven Year's War' across the world but called the 'French and Indian War' for the fighting that took place in North America. It formally began when a young George Washington, a lieutenant colonel in the Virginia militia at the time, led an expedition against the French that ultimately ended in failure at Fort Necessity, where the French forced him to surrender. This same year, colonial leaders met at the Albany Congress in Albany, New York, in order to discuss the war and plan defensive and diplomatic solutions. Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania even proposed the Albany Plan of Union, an ultimately unsuccessful attempt to unite the colonies. However, it was the first sign of the desire within colonies to unify for autonomy.

By 1757, Britain had elected William Pitt as the Secretary of State, who drastically shifted the British war strategy. He pushed more troops and more funds toward North America, which helped Britain achieve key victories in the war but also led to unprecedented debt. Part of his strategy was to fund colonial militias, promising to reimburse the colonial assemblies for military expenses, which gave them a taste of the autonomy Franklin proposed three years before.

1759, nicknamed the "Year of Victories" for Britain, was exactly that. Britain managed to capture key French settlements, including Quebec, ultimately turning the war in the Empire's favor. This year not only effectively erased French power within Canada but was the first year to ensure that Britain would likely win.

In 1760, King George III inherited the throne at just 22 years old. Young and inexperienced, the newly crowned monarch found himself inheriting growing debt, a major war, and a resisting thirteen colonies, all approximately 3600 miles away. With all these issues, British leaders began to consider options for the colonies to repay the Crown and contribute to British finances.

In 1762, all sides could feel the war drawing to a close. France, desperately seeking peace and support, secretly conceded the Louisiana Territory to Spain in a treaty that was not made public until 1764. This shifted

geopolitics within North America, and gave Spain control of the Mississippi Valley, marking itself as a possible British threat. The Treaty of Paris, signed in 1763, marked the end of the war with a victory for the British, giving them massive territorial gain, including the whole of the Atlantic Coast of North America, Canada, and Spanish Florida, which Spain gave to Britain as part of the peace negotiations. This meant that France withdrew nearly all its presence in North America. This also meant that the British Empire now extended from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River and from the Arctic Circle to the Gulf of Mexico. This war would begin the start of the end of British control over the colonies, despite its newly acquired land.

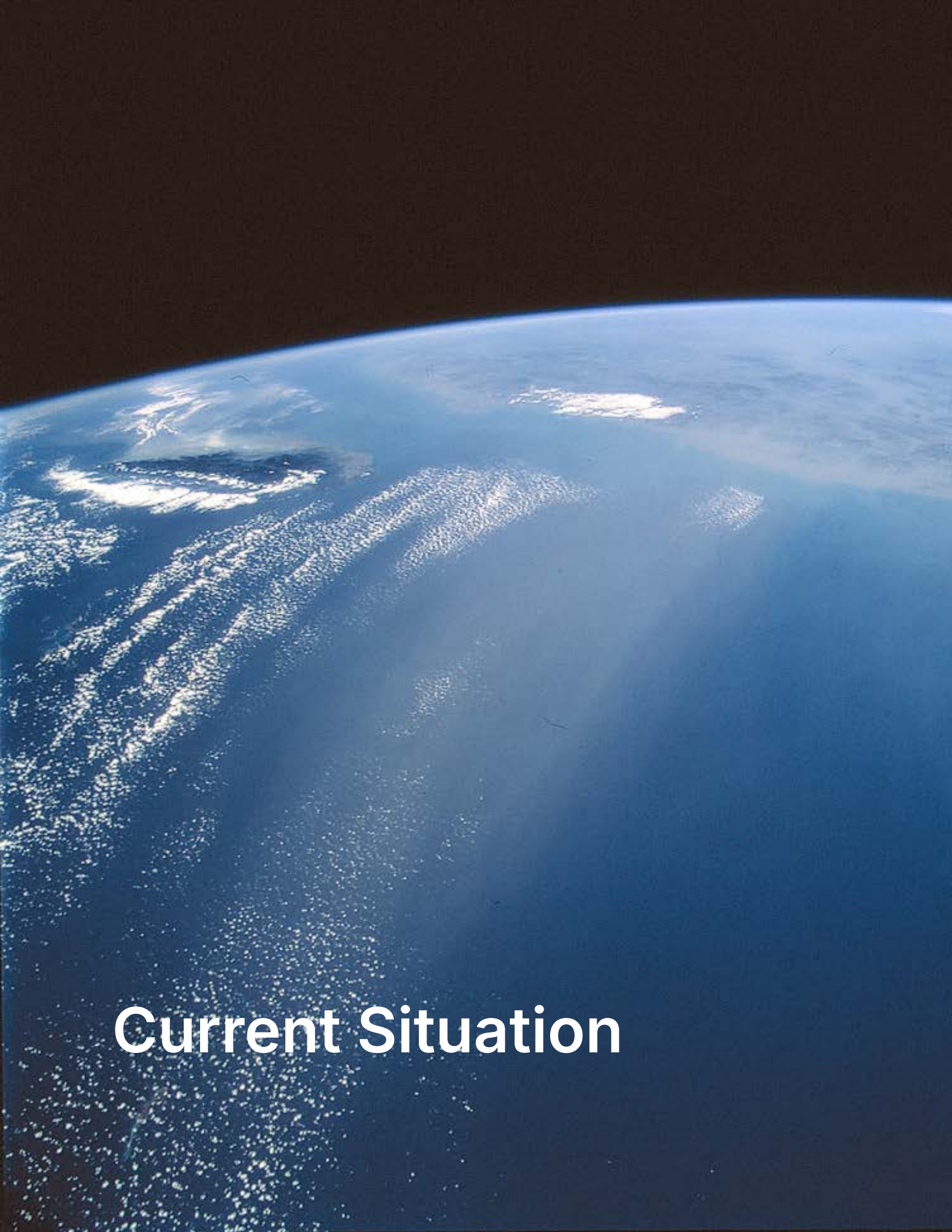
Although he had just gained all this land, King George III simply did not have the firepower to deal with potential conflicts with indigenous groups living in or around their newly acquired territory west of the colonies. In 1763, after the Treaty of Paris had been signed, an Indigenous uprising, Pontiac's Rebellion, began. Ottawa chief Pontiac and native warriors attacked British forts across the Great Lakes, protesting British seizing of Native land and disrespecting or simply ignoring altogether the sovereignty of Native American tribes in the area. This rebellion spooked the King, convincing him that settlement policies were essential to avoid future conflicts and unnecessary deaths.

To deal with this, he issued the Proclamation of 1763, which banned anyone from settling west of the Appalachian Mountains, a natural boundary between the colonies and the new territory. However, this once again angered colonists, many of whom had hoped to migrate and settle on new land. In fact, many settlers ignored the boundary, and continued moving westward.

In spite of this win, the British Parliament was now drowning in debt. In order to solve this pressing issue, they turned to the colonies. Since they claimed this war was for the colonies - and they now had troops in the colonies to protect them from Native Americans and European powers alike - they placed taxes on the colonies, hoping to generate revenue to pay off their national debt. While in England this was seen as a necessity, the colonists strongly and angrily pushed back, ignoring the taxes and claiming both the taxes and the soldiers were a violation of their rights as Englishmen.

The first act, the Sugar Act, was a redraft of the Molasses Act of 1733, which was hardly enforced. With this act, while the price of foreign molasses had decreased from 6 pence to 3 pence a gallon, Britain then placed a tax on sugar, coffee, and calico, amongst other goods. Alongside this, they hammered down on smuggling and trade, banning the importation of foreign rum. The colonists were extremely angry at Parliament, especially seeing as it was passed in

Parliament, which held no colonial representation. This act planted the seeds of the famous principle "No Taxation Without Representation" and eventually, the American Revolution.



Current Situation

Philadelphia

April the 5th, 1764

Fellows Delegates of the Continental
Congress,

It is with a heavy heart that I inform all of you that as of today, the Crown has imposed on us a Sugar Act, a tax not too dissimilar from the Molasses Act of 1733. Since 1733, they have been light on us, but with the recent war's ending and the need for money to repay the national debt, the Crown has begun to enforce taxes, like the Sugar Act, which have not been regulated before.

It is in times such as these, where this act threatens not only our trade and commerce but our rights, as citizens of the Crown, that I ask all of you to summon your courage, conscience, and good thinking.

We have an important and heavy decision to make, one that we cannot tread lightly on. I urge you all to consider, with haste, this question: Do we petition the Crown to redress this atrocity, refuse to comply with these demands, or prepare for the possibility of war, should our liberties continue to be disregarded?

I ask you to meet me here in Philadelphia, to gather and discuss the future of our colonies, in light of the recent events. Please, let us come prepared, with ideas and solutions, to find an answer in these troubling times.

Your humble servant,

[redacted]

Delegate of [redacted]

Goals for Committee

- Formulate a unified and strategic response to the recent implementation of the Sugar Act
 - Determine the most effective course of action. Your response must reflect the principles and needs of all 13 colonies, alongside the rights they hold as Englishmen.
- Anticipate and prepare for a potential retaliation by the British
 - Depending on your response to the Sugar Act, you may face harsh repercussions by the Crown or Parliament. Prepare the necessary actions - whether diplomatically, economically, or defensively - while attempting to keep the peace and withstand escalation.
- Establish the Congress' stance on sovereignty and independence
 - Clarify and define the Continental Congress' stance on colonies' powers, within the scopes of self-governance, loyalty toward the Crown, and their own legal power. This will include discussing whether the colonies should seek reform or independence.
- Consider the intervention of foreign powers and native americans and how they may impact the colonies' future
 - Strategize on how to navigate the complex and tangled diplomatic landscape of other nations who control land nearby, including Spain, France, and Native American tribes throughout North America. Contemplate the likelihood of foreign intervention, whether as allies or enemies, and how this Congress' actions might alter those relationships.
- Preserve the economic prosperity of the colonies and alleviate rising tensions
 - Deliberate on how to address the economic hardships imposed by British policies and laws, while preventing tensions from rising within and among the colonies.

Questions to Consider

- As a representative of your colony, which course of action will you take to ensure the freedom, prosperity, and liberties of your fellow colonists? Will you accept Parliament's taxes or hold firm your rights as Englishmen?
- Knowing the dire consequences of retaliation, will you continue to comply with the taxes or hold your stance against the Crown(should you assume such a stance), keeping in mind the hardships that are sure to follow?
- When casting your vote on measures, will you vote in favor of or against policies that prioritize the well-being of all thirteen colonies, or think only of your individual colony's interests and needs?
- In this risky game of diplomacy, how can the Congress maintain relations with Native American tribes, France and Spain, keeping in mind their stance towards the Crown?

Committee Members

Note: While this will take place when the first Continental Congress began, not all members listed were delegates at the time. However, for the sake of keeping famous founding fathers in this committee, please assume the stance and policies your character held at the *second* Continental Congress, should that apply to you.

Name	Delegation
Peyton Randolph	President
Charles Thompson	Secretary
Roger Sherman	Connecticut
Silas Deane	Connecticut
Caesar Rodney	Delaware
John Dickinson	Delaware
George Walton	Georgia
Charles Carroll	Maryland
John Adams	Massachusetts
John Hancock	Massachusetts
Samuel Adams	Massachusetts
John Langdon	New Hampshire
Josiah Bartlett	New Hampshire

John Witherspoon	New Jersey
Alexander Hamilton	New York
John Jay	New York
Joseph Hewes	North Carolina
John Dickinson	Pennsylvania
Ben Franklin	Pennsylvania
Robert Morris	Pennsylvania
Stephen Hopkins	Rhode Island
John Rutledge	South Carolina
George Washington	Virginia
Thomas Jefferson	Virginia
James Madison	Virginia
James Monroe	Virginia
Patrick Henry	Virginia
George Wythe	Virginia

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