



## UNIT 11.1 FORMATIVE WRITING ASSESSMENTS

Speech in the Virginia Convention

By Patrick Henry

**Writing Prompt:**

What is the **central idea(s)** of Henry’s speech? What **persuasive devices** does he use to make his point known? What **assumptions** does he make about his **audience**? Cite specific references from the text to support your claims.

The Declaration of Independence

By Thomas Jefferson

**Writing Prompt:**

Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence as an **argument** in favor of independence. Trace his arguments in the portion of the text you have been given. Who is his audience and how does he want them to respond? Be sure to include a discussion of his argument, his evidence, and his use of rhetorical devices. Support your ideas with evidence from the text and from class discussion.

From Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God

By Jonathan Edwards

**Writing Prompt:**

Analyze the **persuasive techniques** that Jonathan Edwards uses in “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God.” Discuss the **response he evokes in his audience** and the ways he achieves it.

Letter to John Adams

By Abigail Adams

**Writing Prompt:**

Abigail Adams makes an argument in her letter against the “arbitrary power” of men. Write a letter to the editor of a local paper in which you support or refute this statement: An amendment guaranteeing women’s rights is necessary because women still face many of the inequities they faced in Adams’ time. Support your claim with evidence from the text.