

Grade Level: 5th Grade

Topic: Boston Massacre

Essential Questions:

Was the final result worth it in the end? (Does the end justify the means?)
How are beliefs influenced?

Resources:

- A. Social Studies for Kids – The American Revolutionary War – Paragraphs 1-6 (Word Count = 246, Lexile 1120)
<http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/articles/ushistory/revolutionarywar1.htm>
- B. New World Encyclopedia – Boston Massacre (stop at “The Trial of the Soldiers”) – Paragraphs 1-5 (Word Count =433, Lexile 1200)
http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Boston_Massacre
- C. Paul Revere Heritage Project - Paul Revere’s Engraving of the Boston Massacre – Shaping Public Opinion (Word Count = 845, Lexile 1180)
<http://www.paul-revere-heritage.com/boston-massacre-engraving.html>

Writing Types	Guiding Questions	Prompts	Reminders/Things to Consider (Student-Friendly Rubric Descriptors)
Opinion Resources A & B	Why did the Colonists feel justified in their actions at the Boston Massacre? Why did the British feel justified in their actions at the Boston Massacre?	Choose a side – Colonist or British – and write a persuasive speech to be given at a town hall meeting defending your actions at the Boston Massacre.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Include details and facts from the readings to clearly state your opinions and support your argument.• Group your ideas in an organizational structure that clarifies your opinion and support.• Use linking phrases such as because, for instance, in addition, to make your reasoning clear.• Apply conventions correctly
Informative Explanatory Resources B & C	What were the facts of the Boston Massacre? What misinformation was given that led to the Boston Massacre? What misleading information was given in propaganda concerning the Boston Massacre? How did all of the above influence the beliefs of the people involved?	Write a news article discussing how beliefs were formed leading up to and directly after the Boston Massacre. Choose at least two of the following topics to focus your discussion: details about Colonists’ relationship with and dependency on Britain, taxes, representation, misinformation and propaganda.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clearly state each sides beliefs.• Include facts and details (not your opinion) from both texts.• Create an organizational structure that clarifies your information.• Use linking phrases such as for example, for instance, in addition, to make your reasoning clear.• Apply conventions correctly
Narrative Resources B & C	What were the facts of the Boston Massacre? What misinformation was given that led to the Boston Massacre? What misleading information was given in propaganda concerning the Boston Massacre? How did all of the above influence the beliefs of the people involved?	Write a dialogue between a Colonist and a British Soldier about what happened at the Boston Massacre. Include facts, misinformation, and propaganda given at the time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clearly establish a setting and the characters.• Use dialogue to develop an understanding of each characters beliefs and justifies their actions during the Boston Massacre.• Use main events, details, and descriptions from both passages.