Liberty or Death Scenarios

**Objective:** Have the students determine if this person would be a Loyalist, Patriot, or Neutral based on their social standing, financial interest, location, etc.

I will display scenario on the document camera and read it aloud. I will have put signs three places in the room labeled: Patriot, Loyalist and Neutral. When you read the scenario, they will move to location they believe that person would be choose. They need to be ready to justify their location. Discuss reasons.

Colonist 1:

Colonist 1 is a wealthy tea merchant in Boston. His goal in life is to be rich and he doesn’t necessarily care if he breaks the law to do it. Since the Townsend Acts places a tax on tea, he has been illegally importing tea from the Dutch. His ships have to avoid the British navy and customs officers, who could board his ships and collect the taxes or confiscate his tea because it is from the Dutch. He recently was caught, but was able to bribe the officials and got off. Now the Royal Governor of Massachusetts wants him arrested.

Choose a sign and have reasons to back your choice.

Colonist 2:

Colonist 2 is an immigrant from Germany and lives in the Pennsylvania frontier. He decided to move his family to the fertile Ohio River Valley. He plans to move near a British fort that could offer protection from Indians. As he arrived in the Ohio Valley, the British soldiers told him that since the Proclamation of 1763 he is not allowed to move there.

Choose a sign and have reasons to back your choice.

Colonist 3:

Colonist 3 is a wealthy woman from New York. Her husband’s business does very well and trades with the British. They have a place of honor in the British society in New York and she claims to be related to several members of the House of Lords in the British Parliament. She worries about the violence and troubles the Sons of Liberty are bringing to New York. She and her husband fear their ties to the British could cause the Sons of Liberty to target them.

Choose a sign and have reasons to back your choice.

Colonist 4:

Colonist 4 is a farmer in a rural area of the colonies. He really hasn’t paid much mind to the troubles between colonists and the British. He struggles day to day to take care of his family and farm. Recently his landowner, a Loyalist, has had his own financial troubles. To help get himself out of debt, the landowner has raised rent on the farm several times in the past year. Colonist 4 could barely earn enough from his crops to pay the original rent. Now he will be evicted if he can’t pay the raised rent. He, his wife, and five children will not have anywhere to go if they are evicted.

Choose a sign and have reasons to back your choice.

Colonist 5:

Colonist 5 works in Boston loading and unloading ships. He doesn’t care much about money or politics. He plays cards at taverns near the waterfront and often gets in fights. He fights well, but has had to spend the night in jail a time or two for fighting. The Sons of Liberty have tried to recruit him, but he was not interested. He is now informed he is out of a job because the British passed a series of acts called the Intolerable Acts which close Boston Harbor to trade, so there are no ships to load and unload.

Choose a sign and have reasons to back your choice.

Colonist 6:

Colonist 6 is a merchant in the colonies who sells all of his goods, mainly tobacco, to the British. He follows all the British laws, is very wealthy and wears all the latest styles from Europe. When he was young, his father sent him to college in Britain and he hope to do the same for his son next year. He believes it is the best place for a good education.

Choose a sign and have reasons to back your choice.