
STEPPINGSTONES
SCHOLARSHIP



KAYLEE
2026 RUNNER-UP

This year, America will celebrate its 250th birthday, signifying how we won the fight for independence from Britain. If it weren't for the patriots' determination for freedom, America would not be what it is today. People participated in protests and boycotts of British acts because of "Taxation without representation." They made political cartoons, handed out pamphlets, tarred and feathered British officials, and the Daughters of Liberty made homespun cloth to protest against unfair taxes. The boldest act of civil disobedience that occurred was the Boston Tea Party. The Sons of Liberty, colonial patriots such as Samuel Adams, Paul Revere, and John Hancock, along with approximately 175 colonists, threw 200 crates of tea into Boston Harbor.

They also tried to stop the payment of duties and prevent the landing of cheaper taxed tea. The people hoped to force the repeal of British taxes, defend American rights, and rally other colonists against British rule. After the Boston Tea Party, the British passed the punitive Coercive Acts and closed the harbor as punishment for the Boston Tea Party. These actions ignited the American Revolution and led to the creation and signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

Our forefathers were Christians who based the Declaration of Independence on God's Word. In the document, they wrote "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Also, in Romans 13:4 it says "for the one in authority is God's servant for you." If the government (God's servant) is unfair, unjust, oppressive, and disregarding people's unalienable rights, a Christian can and should participate in civil disobedience. God is the highest authority and should direct our decisions. There are examples in history where civil disobedience was needed to save people's lives. In the Bible, in Exodus, the midwives disobeyed Pharaoh and did not throw the babies into the river, and Moses' mother hid him to save his life. Another instance to protect people from persecution was when Miep Giesand and her husband hid Ann Frank and her family. This was a direct act of civil disobedience as they disobeyed Nazi orders by hiding Jews in their home. Sadly, Ann was caught by Nazi's and sent to an internment camp where she died. There is such a thing as good and evil. Nazi Germany was an evil government. God is more powerful than any government and can overcome any evil. As Americans, we have a responsibility to defend our freedoms and those who can't protect themselves. That is why our constitution is so important.

In the First Amendment, we have the right to free speech and the right to protest peacefully. As Americans, there are many legal avenues and opportunities to take, like using our right to vote or running for office. When Christians are faced with a hard decision between following man-made unjust laws or God's law, there are many ways to respond before acting with violence or force: by praying, peacefully protesting, and seeking guidance from other Christians and God's word. The colonists tried many peaceful means, but they failed; fighting broke out, triggering the Revolutionary War.

If I lived during the Revolution, I believe I would have participated in the Boston Tea Party

because the British were unjust and unfair to the colonists. Another way I would have protested is by making political cartoons for leaflets and pamphlets. Benjamin Franklin carved the famous “Join or Die” cartoon on wood. Last semester, my history project was on political cartoons during the American Revolution. I carved a snake wrapped around a piece of paper with the word “Intolerable” on it. Showing how the colonists (the snake) would not stand the Intolerable Acts. In the future, as a Christian, I would fight for human rights.