

Student Handout 5.5 Road to American Revolution

Source: An address to the true-born sons of liberty in the government of the Massachusetts-Bay. Signed A Countryman. 1765. Pdf. <https://www.loc.gov/item/rbpe.03601400/>.

An ADDRESS to the True-born Sons of Liberty in the Government of the Massachusetts-Bay.

GENTLEMEN,

THE spirit with which you have of late opposed the stamp act, shews, that you have taken upon you, to think something of affairs. Go on my friends, and inquire further: It is the proper business of every man, who is governed by laws, to study into the nature of those laws; and wherever he finds an error, point it out, in order for amendment. I beg of you go on, and inquire into the constitution and economy of this government: And if your rights and liberties are invaded, study what measures you must take for redress; and be, (as you were in the late case of the stamp act) united to those measures, and you are morally certain of success and remedy. The method you have taken to put a stop to the stamp act, (however exploded by some designing persons) are, for aught I know, the only method to oppose despotism ...

Quote from source	Vocabulary	Closer read	What is he saying? Use your own words to summarize the meaning of the statement.
1. THE spirit with which <u>you</u> have of late opposed the stamp act, shews, that <u>you</u> have taken upon <u>you</u> , to think something of affairs.	affairs: politics and activism in government	Who is the <i>you</i> that the author refers to?	
2. Go on my friends, and inquire further:	inquire: to ask, to investigate	What might it look like to inquire further?	
3. It is the proper business of every man, who is governed by laws, to study into the nature of those laws; and wherever he finds an error, point it out, in order for amendment.	amendment: to change something for the better	What specifically does he want men to do?	
4. I <u>beg</u> of you go on, and inquire into the constitution and economy of this government:		Why do you think he uses the word <i>beg</i> ?	

5. And if your rights and liberties are invaded, study what measures you must take for redress;	redress: to fix something that is broken or wrong	What do you think a right or liberty was that people had at that time?	
6. and be, (as you were in the late case of the stamp act) united to those measures,	measures: actions	What does he think people should be?	
7. and you are morally certain of success and remedy.	morally: correct behavior remedy: to fix or correct something	Look at excerpts 6 and 7 and consider: what does he argue here?	
The method you have taken to put a stop to the stamp act, . . . are, for aught I know, the only method to oppose despotism	aught: all despotism: absolute power, not sharing power	What is the method he is referring to?	