

EXAMPLE ESSAY PARAGRAPH

Example: Explain how George Washington’s leadership contributed to the Americans winning independence from Great Britain.

Document X (*Peanut butter*):

“There is something charming to me in the conduct of Washington. A gentlemen of one of the first fortunes upon the continent, leaving his delicious retirement, his family and friends, sacrificing his ease, and hazarding all in the cause of his country.”

Source: John Adams to Elbridge Gerry, June 18, 1775

Jelly:

- Newburgh Conspiracy-army threatening mutiny for back-pay
 - Keeps Revolution from turning into chaos and military dictatorship
 - Says he almost goes blind serving his country
- Washington sacrifices a lot during the Revolution, but still persists
 - Winters at Valley Forge
 - Horrific defeats
 - New York
- Refuses pay

Document Y (*Peanut Butter*):

Washington would be “the greatest man in the world” if he resigned at the war's close.

Source: King George III

Jelly:

- Resigns from the army rather than taking control of the country—not wanting power shows he is the best to lead—future president
- Not a dictator
- Respected
 - VA vs. MA militia

Washington’s leadership was extremely important to the colonists gaining independence from Great Britain. He was a man willing to sacrifice everything for the Revolution’s success (Document X). His leadership was on full display during the harsh winter at Valley Forge when he froze and suffered alongside of his troops. Despite suffering a terrible defeat at New York, he managed to maintain his composure and led his men to the ultimate prize—independence. And after winning that independence, the man who could have easily become the ruler of the newly created United States, chose to step down and ride off into the sunset, rather than become a monarch or dictator (Document Y). Washington was reluctant to seek power, and thus that made him just the person to lead the nation.