Video/DVD Assignment
"Founding Fathers: Taking Liberties"
Volume 1, Part 2 (Disc 1)
The History Channel, 2000

Please answer each question with a short analytical essay. A short essay is approximately 2 to 4 paragraphs. You must support your conclusions with information pulled from the documentary to properly answer each question. The essay must be typed on a word-processor, on white paper, font 11 pt Arial or similar, 1 inch margins, name/ date/reading/class as the top header.

Please type the question and then the answer to the question. Please number your questions. Do not double-space your answers.

Other questions and a short introduction to the contents of the documentary can be found at http://www.historychannel.com/classroom/guides.html.

Questions:

1. Who was Benjamin Franklin? What events in his early years helped shape his later life? Why did he return to the colonies and become a supporter of independence?

2. Compare and contrast Patrick Henry and George Washington? Besides being revolutionaries did they share any similarities? What do their differences tell us about the revolution?

3. How does the documentary portray George Washington?

4. Why could one say that Thomas Paine was the most important “rebel” of the American Revolution? What role did his pamphlet “Common Sense” in convincing colonials to choose independence?