

American Literature  
*Apostles of Liberty*  
Essay Questions

Directions: Each group member must choose a different one of the following writing assignments concerned with issues raised in Chapter 1: *Apostles of Liberty*.

1. Identify three facets of the concept of religious freedom that this story addresses. In a personal essay, explain why these particular aspects are interesting to you.
2. In a one-page essay, compare and contrast the teachings and practices of the Anglican Church and the Separate Baptists in colonial Virginia.
3. Imagine that you are John Waller. Compose a "Letter from the Spotsylvania County jail," in which you appeal to leaders of all faiths to support religious liberty. Post your letter, and those of your classmates, on a classroom bulletin board. Discuss observations with the class. As an extension, read "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and write a personal response.
4. Dr. King once said, "The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state." Write a broadside (single-sheet newspaper) editorial either opposing or supporting this statement.
5. Rewrite this story in the form of a poem, song or rap. What title will you choose? What are your main themes? What is the refrain? Share your creation with the class.