

Matrix of Excerpts from *Common Sense*

Instructions: Use the matrix below to record your interpretation of each excerpt displayed. You may restate each excerpt in any way you wish (written or visual), but keep your interpretations clean!

Letter	Excerpt from <i>Common Sense</i>	What the Excerpt Means in Our Own Words
A	<p>“I have heard it asserted by some, that as America hath flourished under her former connection with Great Britain, the same connection is necessary toward her future happiness, and will always have the same effect. Nothing can be more fallacious than this kind of argument.”</p>	<p>This excerpt says that the connection between America and Great Britain only is beneficiary for Great Britain and it doesn't do us any good. Paine writes that anyone who says this connection is beneficial is lying.</p>
B	<p>“We have boasted the protection of Great Britain without considering that her motive was interest, not attachment, and that she did not protect us from our enemies on our account, but from her enemies on her account...”</p>	<p>This excerpt says that the colonists have bragged about the safety and protection provided by the British. The colonists need to realize the British protections are for the British and only protecting themselves from their enemies, not any others.</p>
C	<p>“But Britain is the parent country, say some. Then the more shame upon her conduct. Even brutes do not devour their young, nor savages make war upon their families...”</p>	<p>Britain should be ashamed at how they have treated the colonists. Paine writes that even savages and brutes do not treat their young like the British have treated the colonists.</p>
D	<p>“I challenge the warmest advocate for reconciliation, to show a single advantage that this continent can reap, by being connected with Great Britain. I repeat the challenge; not a single advantage can be derived.”</p>	<p>Paine challenges someone to explain what benefit the colonists would gain from being connected with Great Britain. He then writes that not a single advantage would come from this connection.</p>
E	<p>“Small islands, not capable of defending themselves, are the proper objects for kingdoms to take under their care; but there is something absurd, in supposing a continent to be perpetually governed by an island. In no instance hath nature made the satellite larger than its primary planet.”</p>	<p>Britain should take care of the colonies because they are supposed to defend them. The idea that an island would govern a continent is ridiculous. It goes against nature that a small country would try to govern a large country.</p>
F	<p>“Nothing but independence...can keep the peace of the continent...A government of our own is our natural right: and when a man seriously reflect on the precariousness of human affairs, he will become convinced, that it is infinitely wiser and safer, to form a constitution of our own in a cool deliberate manner, while we have it in our power...”</p>	<p>Independence is the only way to have peace in America (the continent) and that any government is the right and only the right of the people. The colonies should form a constitution (government) of their own.</p>