1. The Americans were being taxed by Britain, but they had no representatives to voice their opinions in Parliament:

*“No taxation without representation”*

-James Otis-

2. Colonists were expected to pay for the debts from the costly French and Indian War:

*“Her (Britain) motive was interest not attachment; she did not protect us from our enemies on our account, but from her enemies on her own account.”*

-Thomas Paine, Common Sense 1776-

3. The colonists were angry about the Proclamation of 1763 that said they could not settle to the west of the Appalachian Mountains.

4. Colonists resented Britain’s policies towards the colonies. Such policies were the Stamp Act that said a stamp must be placed on all printed goods, the Tea Act that allowed only one company to sell tea to the colonists, and the Quartering Act that forced colonists to house and feed British soldiers.

5. Britain limited colonial trade through her policies (the Intolerable Acts & the Prohibitory Acts.) These policies made it difficult for colonists to make a living.

6. Because of her actions Britain was not a good ruler for the colonies:

*“But Britain is the parent country say some. Then the more shame upon her conduct.”*

-Thomas Paine, Common Sense 1776 –

7. Britain and the king were far away and out of touch with the lives of the colonists in America. Britain was a different world, a different society than America was:

*“There is something very absurd in supposing a Continent to be perpetually governed by an island…England and America reverse the order of nature, it is evident they belong to different systems- England to Europe, America to itself.”*

-Thomas Paine, Common Sense 1776-

8. The British actions on April 19, 1775- Boston Massacre (five colonists dead.)

9. Liberty (freedom) is a right of all men:

*“A government of our own is our natural rights.”*

-Thomas Paine, Common Sense 1776-