



Thomas Paine

September 13-14, 2006

Daily Objectives

- DLA
- Persuasion



Biography

- 1737-1809
- Most persuasive writer of the American Revolution
- Poorly educated son of a corset maker
- Born in England
- Unsuccessful as corset maker, tobacconist, school teacher, and tax collector



Biography

- Fired from tax collecting in 1774
- Went to Philadelphia for a fresh start



Common Sense



- Published in January 1776, *Common Sense* was a forty-seven-page pamphlet in support of America's independence
- Called King George III a "royal brute"
- Stated that a continent should not be ruled by an island
- Sold ½ million copies

Biography

- Returned to Europe in 1787 to support the French Revolution
- Banned from England for treason
- First celebrated in France as a hero of the French Revolution; then “imprisoned for being a citizen of an enemy nation (England)”



Biography



- “James Monroe, American minister to France at the time, gained his release in 1794 by insisting that Paine was an American citizen.”
- *The Age of Reason* was about deism and was controversial in America
- Returned to America in 1802
 - Was an outcast
 - Stripped of his right to vote
 - Had no money
 - Was continually harassed

Biography



- Died in New York and “was refused burial in consecrated ground,” so he was buried on a farm
- English sympathizer wanted to move Paine’s remains to England and erect a memorial to him in 1819
- In 1844, a furniture dealer in England purchased the remains

Writing Style

- Style
- Persuasion—logic and emotion
- Analogy
- Anecdote
- Sentence structure
- Word choice
- Figurative language
- Imagery

