



BRI

Celebrating America **250**

This month: The King's Speech | Student Programs in Action | Civics Champion

From Royal Decree to Student Inquiry: The King's Speech and the Path to Independence

Two months after declaring the colonies "in rebellion," King George III opened Parliament on **October 27, 1775** with a **Speech from the Throne** with an unmistakable message: resistance would be met with force, and reconciliation would be difficult.

For classrooms, this is a moment made for experiential civic learning. Students can analyze competing arguments from late 1775: What did the Crown claim? How did American leaders respond? How did citizens prudentially weigh the benefits and risks of Independence?

If you're a teacher, try this in class! Have students compare excerpts from the King's address with colonial responses, then stage a brief town-meeting debate on whether to persist in petitioning or prepare for separation. If you're not a teacher, try this with the young people in your life.

[Explore "The Path to Independence" lesson](#)

Scholar lens (bonus): John Dickinson hoped for reconciliation even as options narrowed. Use this to probe **prudence and responsibility** in decision-making.

 [Watch: "John Dickinson, the American Founding, and the Constitution" \(Scholar Talks\)](#)



Student Programs: Agency in Action

This fall, students aren't just learning *about* citizenship, they're **practicing** it.

- **MyImpact Challenge** (open now): Students launch community projects grounded in the Founding Principles, building skills, character, and civic leadership.
- **Think the Vote**: Weekly prompts invite students to research, discuss, and take a stance, cultivating respectful dialogue and evidence-based reasoning.
- **Student Fellowship** (launching this month): A selective leadership experience that develops civic virtues and connects students with peers and mentors.

Know a student ready to lead?

[Start a MyImpact Challenge Project today!](#)



Civics Champion: Put the Constitution in Students' Hands

Help us turn lessons into **lived** civics as we look forward to next year's 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence—put this document in students' pockets with our **pocket Constitutions**, primary-source lessons, and student programs that translate ideals into action.

Support a Civics Champion and fuel experiential civic learning nationwide.

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