Period

A Petition from the General Congress in America to the King, October 26, 1774

We your majesty's faithful subjects [beg] to lay our	Most important text:
grievances before the throne. A standing army has been kept	
in these colonies, ever since the conclusion of the late war,	
without the consent of our assemblies; and this army, with a	
considerable naval armament, has been employed to enforce	
the collection of taxes; The authority of the commander in	
chief, and, under him, of the brigadier general, has in time of	
peace been rendered supreme in all the civil governments in	
America. The commander in chief of all your majesty's forces	
in North-America has in time of peace been appointed	
governor of a colony. The charges of usual officers have been	In your own words
greatly increased, and new, expensive, and oppressive	
officers have been multiplied. The judges of the admiralty	
and vice-admiralty courts are impowered to receive their	
salaries and fees from the effects condemned by themselves.	
The officers of the customs are employed to break open and	
enter houses without the authority of any civil magistrate,	
founded on legal information. The judges of courts of	
common law have been made entirely dependent on one	
part of the legislature for their salaries, as well as for the	
duration of their commissions	

Commerce has been burthened with many useless and	Most important text:
Commerce has been burthened with many useless and oppressive restrictions In the last session of parliament, an act was passed for blocking up the harbour of Boston; another empowering the governor of the Massachusetts-bay to send persons indicted for murder in that province to another colony, or even to Great-Britain, for trial, whereby such offenders may escape legal punishment; a third for altering the constitution of government in that province; and a fourth extending the limits of Quebec whereby great numbers of British freemen are subjected to [French laws], and establishing an absolute government, and the Roman catholick religion, throughout those vast regions that border on the westerly and northerly boundaries of the free protestant English settlements; and a fifth, for the better providing suitable quarter for officers and soldiers in his majesty's service in North-America	Most important text: In your own words:
Had our Creator been pleased to give us existence in a land of slavery, the sense of our condition might have been mitigated by ignorance and habit: But thanks be to his adorable goodness, we were born the heirs of freedom and ever enjoyed our right under the auspices of your royal ancestors, whose family was seated on the British throne to rescue and secure a pious and gallant nation from the popery and despotism of a superstitious and inexorable tyrant	Most important text: In your own words:

The apprehension of being degraded into a state of	Most important text:
servitude, from the pre-eminent rank of English freemen,	
while our minds retain the strongest love of liberty, and	
clearly foresee the miseries preparing for us and our	
posterity, excites emotions in our breasts, which, though we	
cannot describe, we should not wish to conceal. Feeling as	In your own words:
men, and thinking as subjects in the manner we do, silence	
would be disloyalty. By giving this faithful information, we do	
all in our power to promote the great objects of your royal	
cares, the tranquility of your government, and the welfare of	
your people	