Characteristics of a Great Leader

A Letter from John Adams to his wife Abigail about George Washington: (Document 1)

I can now inform you that the Congress have made Choice of the modest and virtuous, the amiable, generous and brave George Washington Esqr. , to be the General of the American Army, and that he is to repair as soon as possible to the Camp before Boston. This Appointment will have a great Effect, in cementing and securing the Union of these Colonies. -- The Continent is really in earnest in defending the Country. They have voted Ten Companies of Rifle Men to be sent from Pensylvania, Maryland and Virginia, to join the Army before Boston. These are an excellent Species of Light Infantry. They use a peculiar Kind of [ . . . ] [ call'd] a Rifle -- it has circular or [ . . . ] Grooves within the Barrell, and carries a Ball, with great Exactness to great Distances. They are the most accurate Marksmen in the World.

I begin to hope We shall not sit all Summer.

I hope the People of our Province, will treat the General with all that Confidence and Affection, that Politeness and Respect, which is due to one of the most important Characters in the World. The Liberties of America, depend upon him, in a great Degree.

Answer the following questions using this letter:

* Does Adams use positive words or negative words to describe Washington? Give 3 examples of words he uses that illustrate your answer.
* What does Adams want from Washington? What does Adams hope Washington will achieve?
* Why does Adams say that “The Liberties of America, depend upon him, in a great Degree”?

(Document 2) Head Quarters, New York, August 3rd 1776.   
Parole Uxbridge. Countersign Virginia

From General Washington

That the Troops may have an opportunity of attending public worship, as well as take some rest after the great fatigue they have gone through; The General in future excuses them from fatigue duty on Sundays (except at the Ship Yards, or special occasions) until further orders. [[1]](https://mail.nycboe.net/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://gwpapers.virginia.edu/documents/revolution/profanity_1.html%23n1) The General is sorry to be informed that the foolish, and wicked practice, of profane cursing and swearing (a Vice heretofore little known in an American Army) is growing into fashion; he hopes the officers will, by example, as well as influence, endeavor to check it, and that both they, and the men will reflect, that we can have little hopes of the blessing of Heaven on our Arms, if we insult it by our impiety, and folly; added to this, it is a vice so mean and low, without any temptation, that every man of sense, and character, detests and despises it.

Answer the following questions using Washington’s orders:

° What does Washington suggest his soldiers do on Sunday? Why does he think this is important?

°What does he want all of his soldiers to stop doing? Why?

°What does Washington mean by “men of character”.

**(Document 3) George Washington - Thanksgiving Proclamation**

**PROCLAMATION.  
A NATIONAL THANKSGIVING.**

**[From Sparks's Washington, Vol. XII, p. Tl9.]**

Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor; and

Whereas both Houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me " to recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness: "

Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country previous to their becoming a nation; for the signal and manifold mercies and the favor, able interpositions of His providence in the course and conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquillity, union, and plenty which we have since enjoyed; for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted; for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and, in general, for all the great and various favors which He has been pleased to confer upon us.

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations, and beseech Him to pardon our national and other trangressions; to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually; to render our National Government a blessing to all the people by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed; to protect and guide all sovereigns and nations (especially such as have shown kindness to us), and to bless them with good governments, peace, and concord; to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us; and, generally, to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best.

- Given under my hand, at the city of New York, the 3d day of October,

A. D. 1789. G.Ã¸ WASHINGTON.

1. What are 3 action verbs that help describe the purpose of this message? Why?

2. Why is Washington calling for a national day of Thanksgiving?

3. What other people thought of the idea of creating a national holiday?

Characteristics of a Great Leader DBQ

1. Analyze the following 3 documents.
2. Answer the questions for each document on a separate sheet of paper.
3. Using the answers to your questions as well as the documents, construct an essay in response to the following prompt:

“Why was George Washington unanimously elected the United States of America’s first President?”

1. Don’t forget to site the document in which you are referencing. For example:

“According to Document 3, *Thanksgiving Proclamation*, Washington called for a day of Thanksgiving.”

1. You must use all 3 documents in your essay.
2. You must have a clear thesis statement that drives your essay.