**English 5/6: Formative Assessment, Sept. 2015** Name and period:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11-12.1](http://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/RI/11-12/1/)  
Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.*

**Directions- Read, highlight, and annotate the two passages below. Use the annotation key to guide you**.

* **Circle** unfamiliar vocabulary
* Write a **‘?**  by anything that you have a question about or where the text leaves matter uncertain
* Write a **C** by two pieces of data that you could use to support a claim for the thesis listed below (include a brief note about the content of the data)
* Write **CC** by two pieces of data that could be counterclaims in your essay for the thesis listed below (include a brief note about the content of the counterclaim)

**THESIS:** The Iroquois Constitution influenced the U.S. *Declaration of Independence*.

**Passage #1-** Excerpt from [**The lost founding father of America**](http://mybeliefs.co.uk/2012/11/13/the-lost-founding-father-of-america/)

Posted on [November 13, 2012](http://mybeliefs.co.uk/2012/11/13/the-lost-founding-father-of-america/) by [Sheikh Nazim](http://mybeliefs.co.uk/author/smn216/)

Chief Canastaego is a real Iroquois leader who had a profound impact on the founding of America. Many people do believe him to be a lost founding father. The stories related about the arrows and Franklin and how it led to the bundle of arrows in the great seal are true. In Resolution 331, passed in October of 1988, Congress acknowledges the influence that the Iroquois Constitution had upon the American founding documents, including the *Declaration of Independence*. For example, in 1787 John Rutledge of South Carolina read to the members of the Constitution Convention from Iroquois law. Words written 250 years before the American Constitution. Here are the words he read out: “We, the people, to form a union, to establish peace, equity and order”.  
One day Chief Canastaego came to Franklin and by way of demonstration broke a single arrow. After which he got a bundle of 13 arrows and tried to do the same, to break them. But, as the mass amount of arrows was greater. He was unable to so. In effect Chief Canastaego was showing Franklin that the 13 colonies of the states will be stronger together and not being apart. That, to win their war against the colonial powers they will have to form a union together. This is why the seal of America has 13 arrows incorporated into the claws of the eagle.

**Passage #2-** Excerpts from *Iroquois and the Founding Fathers*  
 <http://teachinghistory.org/history-content/ask-a-historian/24099>  
  
Those who support the theory that the First Peoples influenced the drafting of the founding documents point to the words of founders such as Benjamin Franklin, who in 1751 wrote to his printer colleague James Parker that “It would be a strange thing if Six Nations of ignorant savages should be capable of forming a scheme for such an union, and be able to execute it in such a manner as that it has subsisted ages and appears indissoluble; and yet that a like union should be impracticable for ten or a dozen English colonies.” Native American Studies Professor Bruce Johansen and American Studies Professor Donald Grinde, among others, argue that American colonists, in Johansen’s words, “drew freely on the image of the American Indian as an exemplar of the spirit of liberty they so cherished.” These scholars argue that the framers of American governments understood and admired Native American government structures, and they borrowed certain indigenous concepts for their own governments.  
Other scholars are not convinced. Anthropologist Elisabeth Tooker, for example, argued that European political theory and precedent furnished the models for American Founders, while evidence for Indian influence was very thin.  Moreover, the League of Six Nations did not have a centralized authority like that of the federal system the Euro-Americans eventually adopted.   
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