

**2019-2020 Essay Topic**

***Type your essay below the topic question in this document.***

**Topic**

British troops occupied Woodbridge from December 2, 1776 to June 22, 1777. In early 1777, there were forage wars, small skirmishes taking place to obtain provisions. Imagine you were in Woodbridge during the year 1777. Who were you? What were your experiences?

Consult at least 3 credible sources (books, articles, pamphlets, library webs-site resources, youtube, etc.) in preparing the essay and list the sources at the end of the essay. Include at least 4 or 5 facts supporting your historical experience. For example, "Like what happened to Eunice Bloomfield's Family Farm, The British Stole our only cow. Her milk helped feed my younger brothers and sister.s" (The revolution comes to Woodbridge, Historic tour of Woodbridge Vol X.)

Essay should be a MAXIMUM of 4 pages typed and double spaced.

The completed essay is due via Google Classroom and Hard Copy on or before December 20, 2019.

Name: Satvika Singh

*Type your essay below:*

"Abigail! Abigail, dear! Come and help me serve supper."

I leave my half-finished knitted sweater on the table next to me and make my way to our little kitchen. The aromas of vegetables and chicken mix together and fill the air. As I take the food from our wooden stove and place it on our little dining table, my younger sister hurries to help me. Our father takes his place at the head of the table and we all sit down once everything is set. We all say our grace before the meal. Though it's been a month since my two brothers, Samuel and John Dennis, left to join the militia called Jersey Blues, it still sometimes comes as a surprise when I see their chairs empty. A lot of things have been happening since the British took control of Woodbridge. British Redcoats have been seizing and confiscating things from families. For example, there was Eunice Bloomfield and her friend, they sought after a commander and got back their family Bible and cow after being taken by the British. Then there's also the Daughters of Liberty, who have been protesting against the British for some time now.

The Jersey Blues have been abuzz here in Woodbridge. Young men have been eager to sign up, my brothers being two of them. The Jersey Blues are stationed in Woodbridge, Piscataway, and Perth Amboy. Right now it's winter, 1777, and news has arisen that the Jersey Blues are defending Washington's headquarters at Valley Forge. The situation there must be unbelievably bad, this winter is quite a bad and cold one. I don't know what to make of this, all I can hope is that my brothers are going to be alright. Though they're called the Jersey Blues, they've also helped in Pennsylvania and New York. There've also been rumors that the Jersey Blues sometimes have secret meetings at Timothy Bloomfield's house.

Speaking of the Bloomfields, they were victims of the British's stealing spree. The British had wrecked Timothy's "homestead" and taken the family Bible and their precious cow. Eunice Bloomfield and her friend decided to take their matters into their own hands, and they went to see the commander. They charmed and persuaded the British into giving them back their stolen things. The Bloomfields weren't the only one affected by the British ravaging their homes. One day, earlier this year, the British had marched into our own house and taken 2 of our prized sheep. We used to shear them and my mother and I would use the wool to knit sweaters for the family when it would get cold. They would also provide us with milk, which we would use to make cheese. Now we've only got 3 sheep left. There have been many families from which the British have stolen, and it is quite risky business to try and do what Eunice Bloomfield did, so many do not take that chance. With Timothy's sons off fighting, it came as a surprise to many when Eunice decided to take the risk to get back what had been taken from them.

My older sister Elizabeth, who is now 22 and married, left to live with her husband. She joined the Daughters of Liberty too. Earlier this year, the Daughters of Liberty organized something that people like to call "The Coffee Party". There was a rich merchant who was hoarding coffee, and he refused to sell it for under 6 shillings a pound. At this, the Daughters of Liberty attacked and demanded that he give them the keys. They eventually hauled the coffee out themselves. The Daughters of Liberty have organized and joined in on many boycotts too. They also had mass meetings in which they would spin yarn and wool into fabric to make their own clothes. That way they wouldn't have to buy British goods and clothes.

I take my last spoonful of my food. My father sits up, and the rest of us follow. I take to clearing the table and moving the dishes elsewhere. My life has changed a lot since the revolution began. My brothers went and joined the Jersey Blues, the British had taken control of Woodbridge, and my eldest sister became one of the Daughters of Liberty. And I, Abigail Dennis, am in the midst of it all, watching it happen.

Commented [1]: you did an excellent job! This was very impressive.

### Bibliography

Brooks, Rebecca Beatrice, and Rebecca Beatrice Brooks. "The Daughters of Liberty: Who Were They and What Did They Do?" *History of Massachusetts Blog*, 11 Aug. 2018, <https://historyofmassachusetts.org/who-were-the-daughters-of-liberty/>.

*Historic Tour of Woodbridge Volume X, The Revolution: War Comes To Woodbridge*. 2018.

Troeger, Virginia B., and Robert J. McEwen. *Woodbridge: New Jersey's Oldest Township*. Arcadia, 2002.