

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

**Grade 7: Lesson 9** Write a paragraph explaining your feelings about a portion of John's letter back to Abigail.

**Text of Letter:**

**April 14, 1776**

As to your extraordinary Code of Laws, I cannot but laugh. We have been told that our Struggle has loosened the bands of Government everywhere. That Children and Apprentices were disobedient—that schools and Colledges were grown turbulent—that Indians slighted their Guardians and Negroes grew insolent to their Masters.

But your Letter was the first Intimation that another Tribe more numerous and powerfull than all the rest were grown discontented. —This is rather too coarse a Compliment but you are so saucy, I wont blot it out.

Depend upon it, We know better than to repeal our Masculine systems. Altho they are in full Force, you know they are little more than Theory. We dare not exert our Power in its full Latitude. We are obliged to go fair, and softly, and in Practice you know We are the subjects. We have only the Name of Masters, and rather than give up this, which would completely subject Us to the Despotism of the Peticoat, I hope General Washington, and all our brave Heroes would fight. I am sure every good Politician would plot, as long he would against Despotism, Empire, Monarchy, Aristocracy, Oligarchy, or Ochlocracy. —

*Note: The spelling and language have not been changed from the original letter.*

**Task:** Review your notes about our discussion of the letter from John. Find a spot in John's letter that you highly agree or disagree with. Name that spot and write a paragraph to explain your opinion.