Whose Side Are You On Anyway?

Objectives: Students will be able to analyze the most persuasive arguments of both Patriots and Loyalists in the early years of the revolution and will be able to profile both famous and not so famous supporters of each side. Students will understand the importance of using primary source documents as well as contemporary interpretations of events in finding point of view.

Process:
- Students will read Chapter 4 in their text books. (“The Americans”)
- Students will view a PowerPoint on the build up to Lexington and Concord and the timeline from April 1775 to July 2nd, 1776. A preliminary list of main arguments of Loyalists and Patriots will be generated. Photographs of Loyalists and Patriots as well as some primary source documents will also be looked at similar to what Dr. Van Buskirk presented.
- Utilizing internet sources and two days in the computer lab- In groups of 4 students will create profiles of the Patriot argument and the Loyalist argument. The profiles will be put into a newspaper format and will include the following:
  - A top ten list for each side which highlights and explains the ten most persuasive arguments for and against independence.
  - A summary of the main arguments of one prominent Loyalist and one prominent Patriot. This should include a brief biography of the person’s life up to 1776, a quote from the person which shows their sentiments and an answer to this question: Why is________________________ a patriot/loyalist?
  - A letter to the editor for each side of the argument written by everyday colonists expressing their opinions as to why we should or should not declare independence.
  - A “bumper sticker” for each side of the argument that you could put on a wagon in 1776.
  - A works cited page will be included with evidence of primary source usage.

Summative Assessment: Each individual student will draw an identity from a hat and will write a one page response to the question: “If you were this person in 1776 which side would you have chosen and why?”