

Russian Revolution Letter

Task:

From the perspective of a working class Russian citizen, you will be writing a letter to Czar Nicholas II explaining to him why the people of Russia will be starting a revolution on February 23rd, 1917. Type a five-paragraph professional business letter. You may complete this assignment alone OR with a partner. Please choose partners carefully- your grade depends on it. I will not solve partner feuds.

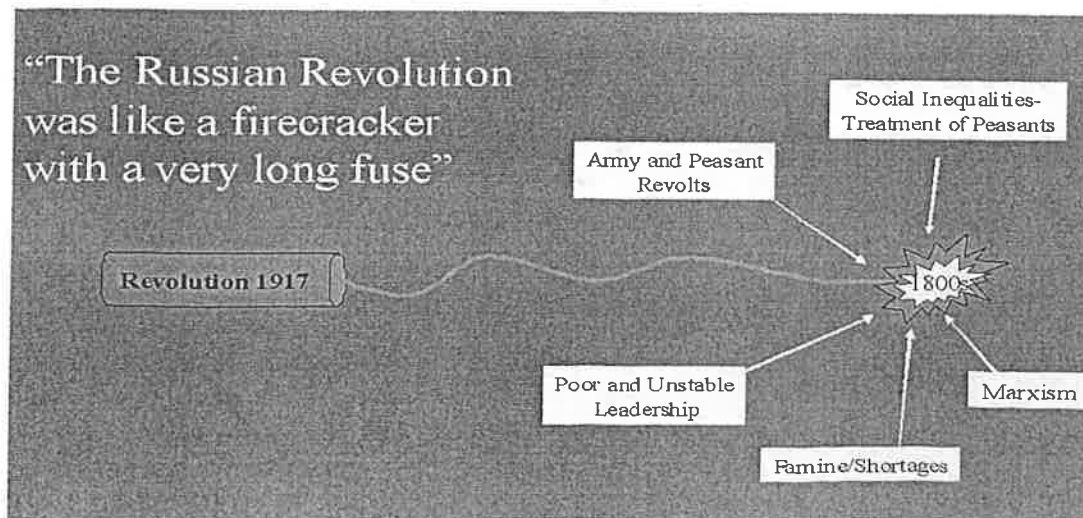
Requirements for your letter:

- Business letter format, with date and proper greeting.
- An **introduction**: state your name, job, what you want to see in Russia's future, and three reasons why the people must revolt.
- **Three body paragraphs** outlining your reasons for revolting.
 - Each paragraph **MUST** have a **quotation** from your reading that relates to the topic of the paragraph.
 - TWO of your paragraphs **MUST** be **perfect paragraphs**. Please label the sentence as follows:
 - (TS)- Topic sentence
 - (CD1) Concrete detail
 - (CM) Commentary
 - (CM) Commentary
 - (CD2) Concrete detail in the form of a quotation
 - (CM) Commentary
 - (CM) Commentary
 - (CS) Concluding or transitional sentence.
- A **concluding paragraph**, reviewing your purpose and warning Czar Nicholas about the effects of a revolution.

*Your letter should have complete sentences and no spelling or grammar mistakes.

Focus!

- Social inequalities and mistreatment of the peasants
- Ideas of Karl Marx and communism
- Famine/shortages of food and consumer products
- Poor and unstable leadership
- Army and peasant revolts, i.e., Russo-Japanese War, WWI, "Bloody Sunday" of 1905
- Land reform



Letter to Czar Essay- 40 pts possible

Categories	No Attempt 0	Emerging 1	Developing 2	Proficient 3	Advanced 4
CLAIM/THESIS		Incomplete, unidentifiable, or irrelevant claim	Unfocused or developing claim	Sufficient claim informs the reader about the topic and/or takes a position on an issue	Advanced claim informs the reader about the topic and/or takes a purposeful position on an issue in a clear and accurate manner
EVIDENCE/ CONCRETE DETAILS		Incomplete, inaccurate, unidentifiable or irrelevant evidence	Limited evidence may be lacking in quality, clarity or relevance	Sufficient evidence explains the topic and supports the central claim	Accurate and relevant evidence develops the topic and supports the central claim
REASONING/ COMMENTARY/ ANALYSIS		Incomplete, inaccurate, off topic commentary. Does not support concrete details.	Limited commentary or analysis that may not connect to topic sentence or simply restates the evidence	Commentary supports the topic and evidence may need further explanation or connection	Commentary or analysis explains the significance of the topic and connects evidence back to the central claim/thesis.
CONVENTIONS / EDITING		Informal style, distracting errors, and/or demonstrates no organizational forethought, proofreading, and editing	Developing formal style may need clarification and/or demonstrates limited organizational forethought, proofreading, and editing	Formal style demonstrates sufficient organizational forethought, proofreading, and/or editing, but may be overly verbose	Clear, concise, formal style demonstrates masterful use of language, and exemplary organizational forethought, proofreading, and editing

Consider the following examples of evidence



From a Russian newspaper 1917

Quotes about Czar Nicholas II:

"I am not yet ready to be Tsar. I know nothing of the business of ruling."

-Nicholas II

"His character is the source of all our misfortunes. His outstanding weakness is a lack of willpower."

-Sergei Witte

Kerensky, the leader of the government that took over from the Czar in 1917 said in his memoirs, Crucifixion of Liberty in 1934;

"The daily work of a monarch he found intolerably boring. He could not stand listening long or seriously to ministers' reports, or reading them."

On 12 March 1917 Rodzianko, the President of the Duma, telegraphed the Tsar:

"The situation is getting worse. Something has to be done immediately. Tomorrow is too late. The last hour has struck. The future of the country and the royal family is being decided."

The Tsar read it and said:

"Again, that fat-bellied Rodzianko has written me a load of nonsense, which I won't even bother to answer."

Kremenchugskaya Ulitsa, 10 κ1
St Petersburg, Russia 191922
Feb 21, 1917

Czar Nicholas Romanov II
Alexander Palace
ul. Dvortsovaya, 2,
St. Petersburg, Russia, 196601

Dear Czar Nicholas II,

My name is Katarina Popov. I am a citizen of St. Petersburg. I currently work at the Kirov Plant in St. Petersburg where I help to make weapons for our war effort. I am writing to express my frustration to you as our empire's leader and to warn you about an impending revolution. The people of St. Petersburg have had enough. We will no longer tolerate the shortages of food and other items, your poor and unstable leadership, and our war obligations. The people are ready for a fight against you.

(TS) Russian people don't have the supplies we need to meet our basic survival needs. (CD1) We lack food and consumer items, like: boots, fuel, kerosene, soap, sugar, textiles, etc, which ultimately leads to crisis; such as the famine of 1891, taking 500,000 lives. (CM) Your government did not work to prepare us and there were no adequate transportation systems or farming policies to grow enough food for everyone. (CM) It is unthinkable that a government would allow so many people to die. (CD2) Today in 1917, people are *still* protesting over the fact that there is not enough food for people. (CM) A government that allows its people to go hungry is incompetent and must be replaced. (CM) The Russian people are ready for a revolution and to say, "No More!" (CS) The people of St. Petersburg will replace your incompetent government and it will happen soon.

(TS) The people will no longer accept your poor and unstable leadership. (CD1) You are not qualified to lead our nation or bring reforms to the Russian government, as so boldly admitted when you said, "I am not yet ready to be Tsar. I know nothing of the business of ruling." (CM) Your days as the Czar are numbered. (CM) You have proven time and time again that you are a poor leader. (CD2) Sergie Witte also said about you, "His character is the source of all our misfortunes. His outstanding weakness is a lack of willpower." (CM) This was evidenced on "Bloody Sunday" when you allowed your troops to kill innocent civilians; women and children amongst them. (CM) You have no compassion for the people of Russia. (CS) The people of Russia want a democracy; we want a constitution and a national legislature- not an autocracy!

Finally, the people are demanding an end to wars. You have led our troops into war against the Japanese and now we are engaged in war against the Germans. While soldiers have been inadequately supplied in weapons, equipment, and training, the people back at home have suffered, too. We don't have enough food, prices of products have gone up, taxes have been raised, and our economy is crumbling. Because the people demand an end to war, and you have decided to stay at the front lines with the troops, we feel that your leadership does not meet our needs. We are willing to fight for a new government system.

Czar Nicholas, please take my words to heart. If you do not address these problems to the people, there will be a revolution. If you do not work harder to provide food and consumer products for the people of St. Petersburg, there will be a revolution. If you do not begin to act like a compassionate leader for your people, there will be a revolution. If you do not end our involvement with W.W.I., there will be a revolution. I hope you can sleep well after reading this, because you have a lot of work to do.

Sincerely,



Katarina Popov

Perfect Paragraph Template

Title _____

Topic Sentence (TS): _____

Concrete Detail (CD1): _____

Commentary (CM): _____

Commentary (CM): _____

“Concrete Detail Two” (CD2): _____

Commentary (CM): _____

Commentary (CM): _____

Concluding Sentence (CS): _____

Perfect Paragraph Template

Title _____

Topic Sentence (TS): *This is your claim or thesis. Make an argument about your topic here. All other sentences should be proving this sentence.*

Concrete Detail (CD1): *This is your first FACT proving your topic sentence is true.*

Commentary (CM): *This sentence is commentary, or a discussion about your concrete detail. Tell me what your fact means or how it proves your topic sentence. What are your thoughts about this fact?*

Commentary (CM): This is a second piece of commentary about your concrete detail. It could even be your opinion about it.

“Concrete Detail Two” (CD2): *This is your second FACT proving your topic sentence is true. It should be a quote taken from a good resource.*

Commentary (CM): This is commentary telling us what your second concrete detail means or how it related back to your topic sentence.

Commentary (CM): And again, more commentary about your second fact. Make sure your commentary is not just adding more facts. You should be discussing the fact you already wrote.

Concluding Sentence (CS): This sentence is concluding your paragraph, tying it together, coming to an ultimate conclusion, OR transitioning to another paragraph if you are writing more than one.