## **Reforming Government Persuasive Essay**

"Every government at some time or other falls into wrong measures. These may proceed from mistake or passion. But every such measure does not dissolve the obligation between the governors and the governed. The mistake may be corrected; the passion may subside. It is the duty of the governed to endeavor to rectify the mistake, and to appease the passion. They have not at first any other right, than to represent their grievances, and to pray for redress, unless an emergency is so pressing as not to allow time for receiving an answer to their applications, which rarely happens. If their applications are disregarded, then that kind of *opposition* becomes justifiable which can be made without breaking the laws or disturbing the public peace." John Dickinson, *Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania to the Inhabitants of the British Colonies* (1767)<sup>1</sup>

Dickinson was hardly a farmer. He was a lawyer and a statesman. He participated in Pennsylvania government including serving as her Governor. He argued strenuously for finding compromise with Great Britain at the first Continental Congress. He abstained from voting on and did not sign the Declaration of Independence.

There is a call for reform at many levels of government. Amendments are proposed to the U. S. Constitution at every session of Congress. A platform called *Roadmap to Reform*<sup>2</sup> has been proposed in Pennsylvania. It calls for many changes intended to restore ethics and citizen representation to the Commonwealth's legislature.

Select a proposed amendment to the U. S. Constitution or a proposed reform for state government. Write a persuasive essay advocating either for or against the change. How would Dickinson have responded to your opinion?

## Works Cited

- 1. John Dickinson, *Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania to the Inhabitants of the British Colonies* (1767) http://deila.dickinson.edu/theirownwords/browseauthor.htm
- 2. Roadmap to Reform http://www.democracyrisingpa.com/