

In the years preceding the Revolutionary War, the citizens of Maryland debated many political issues. Nowhere more than in Annapolis was this evident. The *Maryland Gazette* newspaper played an important role in conveying the opinions of patriots and loyalists alike. Decisions and legislative acts of Parliament, the King, and his proprietary governors were debated openly in the pages of the press. Often times, this coverage of current events swayed peoples opinions and actions.

How important were the “First Citizen” letters published in the *Maryland Gazette* to Charles Carroll of Carrollton’s political career? In this activity, you are going to read primary and secondary source documents to gather evidence that will help you answer this focus question. You will have a chance to work in a group to discuss your ideas. Then you will use your prior knowledge and details from the primary and secondary sources to summarize what you have learned from this historical investigation.