

# Common Sense

Thomas Paine

## Why does Paine treat habit itself as an obstacle to political reasoning?

### TOTAL TIME

### PASSAGE

|            |                               |
|------------|-------------------------------|
| 30 minutes | Custom makes wrong look right |
|------------|-------------------------------|

### FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

### SECTION / LOCATION Introduction

START a long habit of not thinking a thing wrong, gives it a superficial appearance of being right END equally to reject the usurpation of either.

|            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| PASSAGE ID | sec-cs-01 |
|------------|-----------|

### THE MOVE

Explain why an argument attacks familiarity before attacking policy

### WHY THIS PASSAGE

Paine begins by attacking habit because familiarity can make an unjust arrangement feel natural before anyone examines its logic. The argument has to loosen custom's authority before it can persuade readers to reconsider government.

### MARK

Underline the phrase about long habit making wrong appear right. Circle the reactions Paine predicts when a familiar system is challenged. Star the sentence that calls for inquiry rather than inherited acceptance.

### NOTICE

- Why can familiarity feel like evidence even when it is not?
- What emotional reaction does Paine expect when a long-standing arrangement is questioned?

- Why must an argument against policy first challenge the reader's trust in custom?

### THINK

Answer provisionally: Why does Paine treat habit itself as an obstacle to political reasoning? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

### WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Why does Paine treat habit itself as an obstacle to political reasoning? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

### CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

|                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>STRONG ANSWER</b> | Habit is an obstacle because familiarity can feel like evidence. A wrong arrangement repeated long enough begins to look natural, so Paine must weaken custom's authority before readers can examine policy rationally. |
| <b>EVIDENCE</b>      | Use the 'long habit' claim, the reaction to challenging custom, and the invitation to inquiry.                                                                                                                          |
| <b>WATCH FOR</b>     | Do not say custom makes people stupid. Explain how repetition changes the appearance of what counts as normal or right.                                                                                                 |
| <b>SOLO</b>          | Read the exact passage independently.                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>SUPPORTED</b>     | Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>LISTENING</b>     | Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.                                                                                                                           |

## STUDENT PAGE · SAME PASSAGE, SAME THINKING

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## Why does Paine treat habit itself as an obstacle to political reasoning?

|                     |                                                                                              |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>START ANCHOR</b> | a long habit of not thinking a thing wrong, gives it a superficial appearance of being right |
| <b>END ANCHOR</b>   | equally to reject the usurpation of either.                                                  |

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

### **OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT**

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. **MARK** - Underline the phrase about long habit making wrong appear right. Circle the reactions Paine predicts when a familiar system is challenged. Star the sentence that calls for inquiry rather than inherited acceptance.
2. **NOTICE** - Why can familiarity feel like evidence even when it is not? What emotional reaction does Paine expect when a long-standing arrangement is questioned? Why must an argument against policy first challenge the reader's trust in custom?
3. **THINK** - Answer provisionally: Why does Paine treat habit itself as an obstacle to political reasoning?
4. **WRITE** - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.