Handout #1

*This letter was written by Emilio Aguinaldo, leader of the Philippine independence movement, during the fight to gain the independence of his country.*

"**Divine Providence is about to place independence within our reach.  The Americans, not from mercenary motives, but for the sake of humanity and the lamentations of so many persecuted people have considered it opportune to extend their protecting mantle to our beloved country.** ... At the present moment an American squadron is preparing to sail to the Philippines. The Americans will attack by sea and prevent any re-enforcements coming from Spain. ... We insurgents must attack by land. ... There **where you see the American flag flying, assemble in number; they are our redeemers**!" "**Filipinos, the great nation, America, cradle of liberty and friendly on that account to the liberty of our people ... has come to manifest a protection ... which is disinterested towards us, considering us with sufficient civilization to govern by ourselves this our unhappy land.**"

1. Who might Aguinaldo be writing this letter to?
2. What is the purpose of this letter?
3. What is the attitude toward America in this letter? What are some adjectives used to describe America?
4. Below or on the back of this sheet write a response to this letter as if you were a Filipino fighting for your independence. How might you respond to the words of your leader in this instance? The letter should be 7-10 sentences long.

Handout #2

*This letter was written by Emilio Aguinaldo, leader of the Philippine independence movement, during the fight to gain the independence of his country.*

General Otis (an American general) styles himself Military Governor of these Islands, and I protest one and a thousand times and with all the energy of my soul against such authority. I proclaim solemnly that I have not recognized either Singapore or in Hong Kong or in the Philippines, by word or in writing, the sovereignty of America over this beloved soil. On the contrary, I say that I returned to these Islands on an American warship on the 19th of May last for the express purpose of making war on the Spaniards to regain our liberty and independence. I stated this in my proclamation of the 24th of May last, and I publish it in my Manifesto addressed to the Philippine people on the 12th of June. Lastly, all this was confirmed by the American General Merritt himself, predecessor of General Otis, in his Manifesto to the Philippine people some days before he demanded the surrender of Manila from the Spanish General Jaudenes. In that Manifesto it is distinctly stated that the naval and field forces of the United States had come to give us our liberty, by subverting the bad Spanish Government, And I hereby protest against this unexpected act of the United States claiming sovereignty over these Islands. My relations with the United States did not bring me over here from Hong Kong to make war on the Spaniards for their benefit, but for the purpose of our own liberty and independence. . .

1. Who might Aguinaldo be writing this letter to?
2. What is the purpose of this letter?
3. What is the attitude toward America in this letter? Why? What are some adjectives used to describe America?
4. Below or on the back of this sheet write a response to this letter as if you were a Filipino fighting for your independence. How might you respond to the words of your leader in this instance? The letter should be 7-10 sentences long.