

ARTIFACT SELF-EVALUATION FORM

Title: The Marquis de Lafayette

Author: ushistory.org

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Type: Biography

1. This is a biography of Marie Joseph Paul Yves Roche Gilbert du Motier, Marquis de Lafayette. The Frenchman is known for his invaluable contributions during the American War for Independence.

2. Born in 1757, Lafayette was only 19 years of age when he was commissioned as a major general in Washington's army on July 31, 1777. Although he had only five years of military experience, having joined the French Royal Army at 14, his wealth and nobility were the reasons for his high rank. However, he would go on to prove his worth as one of the greatest generals in Washington's army. At one point, he was caught in the middle of a conspiracy to overthrow General Washington and replace him with another general. General Horatio Gates, who convinced Congress to give him authority to control an invasion of Canada, knew that Lafayette was completely loyal to Washington.

Knowing this, Gates appointed Lafayette to command the invasion in an attempt to separate Washington from those who were most loyal to him. Although Lafayette was reluctant to accept the appointment, Washington convinced him to accept. In the end, the invasion of Canada never happened, due to inadequacies in supplies and the amount of

troops. Obviously, the invasion was never meant to happen and was just a scheme by Gates to separate Lafayette from Washington. Lafayette even caught on to the scheme and wrote to Washington about his concerns. Fortunately the conspiracy to overthrow Washington was unsuccessful and Washington only came out of it with more support than ever. Lafayette went on to fight and lead in many important battles including Yorktown, in which United States and French forces forced British General Cornwallis to surrender, basically ending the war. Both General Washington and Congress wrote to Lafayette expressing their gratitude for his invaluable contributions and service to the United States throughout the war. He and Washington were lifelong friends after the war, and Lafayette would continue to be a well respected and popular figure in the United States whenever he would visit from France to tour the States. Marquis de Lafayette lived the rest of his life promoting representative government and is remembered today as a great champion for American Independence.

3. I read through an interesting account of his life.

4. I could have read more into detail about his life and the battles he was involved in by reading through more sources.

5. The main difficulties I encounter when studying history is that it is such an extensive area of research that it is difficult to learn every detail about the lives of historical figures and events that have occurred over time without spending vast amounts of time in research.