



Dear Mr. Smith, I am a Gentleman!

In the early days of the Jamestown settlement, many of the colonists were men known as *gentlemen*. These men came from wealthy or upper-class families in England and were not used to doing physical labor. In English society, gentlemen did not farm, build shelters, or perform manual work—those jobs were done by servants. When these gentlemen arrived in Jamestown, they expected to live as they had in England, even though the colony struggled with hunger, disease, and shortages. John Smith believed survival depended on everyone working and became famous for the rule that those who did not work should not eat, a rule that greatly offended many gentlemen.

Your task is to write a **satirical letter** titled “**Dear Mr. Smith, I am a Gentleman!**” Pretend you are one of these Jamestown gentlemen writing directly to John Smith. In your letter, explain—using humor, exaggeration, and sarcasm—why you should not be expected to work, yet still deserve food and comfort. Defend your social status, complain about labor, and show a sense of entitlement. Your letter should be written in the **first person**, sound serious from the gentleman’s point of view, and include historical details about Jamestown life.