



Name _____

Loyalists/Patriots: Dialogue between father and son.

When William Franklin was 21 years old, he accompanied his father, Benjamin, on what would become one of the most famous experiments of all time – Franklin’s discovery that lightning was electricity. By 1763, William had secured his position as Royal Governor of New Jersey – likely because his father lobbied the king. During the Revolutionary War, however, Benjamin pleaded with his son to take up the Patriot cause, but William refused and the relationship between father and son was ruined forever. In 1782, William left for England and never returned to America. He saw his father briefly one last time when Benjamin stopped in England on his way back from France.

What do you think their last conversation was like? Use your knowledge of the reasoning behind the Patriot and Loyalist causes to compose a politically charged “last dialogue” between the two Franklin’s.

(In England)

Benjamin (somberly): It has been a long time, son. Has our time apart given you new insight into the Patriot cause?

William:

Benjamin:

William:

Benjamin:

William:

Benjamin:

William: