Further Review: ['Arnold Has Betrayed Me'](#)

Classroom Discussion Questions College Level

Loyalty and Identity: Benedict Arnold's betrayal raised questions about loyalty to one's nation, community, and personal values. In today's globalized and polarized world, how should we think about competing loyalty, for example, to country, political party, social movements, or personal relationships? When does personal interest outweigh collective responsibility, and is that ever justified?

Recognition, Ambition, and Ethics: Arnold's frustrations with lack of recognition and advancement played a role in his decision to switch sides. How do modern systems of recognition — in workplaces, academia, or politics — affect ethical decision-making? To what extent do ambition and the pursuit of status create vulnerabilities that can lead to corruption or betrayal?

Trust, Betrayal, and Institutional Stability: Washington's reaction to Arnold's betrayal highlights the fragility of trust in leadership. In contemporary society, how do high-profile betrayals — whether by political leaders, corporate executives, or public figures — impact public trust in institutions? What mechanisms (transparency, accountability, reform) are most effective in rebuilding that trust, and are they working today?

Classroom Discussion Questions Grades 9-12

Loyalty and Betrayal: Benedict Arnold was once celebrated as a hero before becoming one of America's most infamous traitors. In today's world, how do we define loyalty — whether to a country, a workplace, or even friendships? Can one major act of betrayal erase years of good contributions, or should both be remembered equally?

Recognition and Motivation: Arnold felt overlooked, underappreciated, and financially strained, which contributed to his decision to switch sides. How does recognition (or lack of it) influence people's choices today, whether in school, work, or politics? Can you think of modern examples where being ignored or undervalued pushed someone to make drastic decisions?

Trust in Leadership: When Arnold betrayed Washington, the general reportedly said, "Whom can we trust now?" In today's society, how do public betrayals by leaders (political, corporate, or even social media figures) affect our trust in institutions? What strategies can we use to rebuild trust when it's been broken?

Classroom Discussion Questions Grades 6-8

Loyalty and Betrayal: Benedict Arnold was once seen as a hero, but later he turned against his own side. Today, what does it mean to be loyal — to your friends, family, school, or country? Do you think one big mistake can erase all the good things someone has done?

Recognition and Motivation: Arnold felt like people didn't notice or appreciate his hard work, and that made him angry. How does it feel when you work hard but don't get recognized? Can you think of a time when someone (maybe a celebrity, athlete, or classmate) made a surprising choice because they felt left out or unappreciated?

Trust in Leadership: When Arnold betrayed him, George Washington wondered, "Who can we trust now?" How important is trust in leaders — like teachers, coaches, or even government officials — today? What should leaders do to earn or rebuild trust once it's broken?

Classroom Discussion Questions Grades 1-5

Loyalty and Betrayal: Benedict Arnold was once a hero, but then he turned against his friends. What does it mean to be a good friend or teammate? If someone makes a really big mistake, do you think they can still be remembered for the good things they did?

Recognition and Motivation: Arnold felt sad and angry because he thought people didn't notice his hard work. How do you feel when someone doesn't notice the good things you do? Why is it important to say "thank you" and cheer each other on?

Trust in Leadership: George Washington was upset because he didn't know who he could trust after Arnold's actions. Why is it important to be able to trust leaders like teachers, coaches, or even classmates in group projects? How can someone show they can be trusted?