**Empathetic Role Play - Abigail Adams Opening Statement**

Introduction:

I believe I see Abigail Adams just now coming out of her husband’s office. She looks terribly distressed. Perhaps she could share with us the cause of her concerns. Mrs. Adams, might you share with these ladies and gentlemen the cause of your distress?

Script:

Most certainly. How do you do? *(Abigail curtseys)* I would be happy to speak with you a moment about a topic which has caused my dear husband, Mr. Adams, and myself much distress. *(Holding a newspaper in her hand).* Perhaps, you have read the most recent comments attacking Mr. Adams written by no other than Mr. Benjamin Franklin’s malicious nephew Mr. Bache? *(Abigail reads a short excerpt from the paper) \*\*\*\*\*\**

Why, scarcely a day passes but some such scurrility appears in Bache’s paper, very often unnoticed, and of no consequence in the minds of many people, but it has, like vice of every kind, a tendency to corrupt the moral of common people. Lawless principles naturally produce lawless actions.

No doubt, you would agree, the sole purpose of these libelous attacks could be no other than to incite a social revolution similar to the one that poor France has recently suffered. The recent degeneration of a legitimate French government into the hands of mobs of the most vile and worthless sort should be of concern to all whom are true and faithful citizens of our blessed country. As you well know, this so called new French government in presently encouraging wars of liberation in Belgium, Switzerland, and Holland. Who is to say that American traitors and French emigrants might follow the lead plunging our nation into a civil war.

It is with my incessant urging that Mr. Adams and Congress take to swift action to stop this wicked and violent abuse. Mr. Adams is fearful that journalists who deliberately distort the news to mislead our good citizens will only cause great harm to our representative democracy.