Common Sense ***(Thomas Paine, 1776)***

Document Analysis Questions

-***Directions:*** You need to give me thoroughly thought out responses in complete sentences and paragraphs for each question. Some questions are quite extensive and therefore require multiple sentences and paragraphs to answer correctly.

1. Paine describes monarchy as dependent on artificial distinctions. What does he mean, and how were those distinctions created?
2. How did Paine use concepts of equality, reason, and nature to criticize the legitimacy of monarchical government and British control of the colonies?
3. What arguments did Paine give for independence? How were his observations about monarchy connected to his reasons for independence? Why did he propose that law be the “King of America”?
4. What kinds of people “espouse the doctrine of reconciliation” with England? What does Paine’s language tell you about how he feels about these people?
5. Based on what Thomas Paine says, in what sense would an independent America be an asylum of mankind, and for whom would it be?
6. What about Paine’s text might account for its widespread and immediate popularity?
7. To what extent did audience shape the tone, style and substance of Paine’s pamphlet?