WASHINGTON’S COPY OF RULES OF CIVILITY & DECENT BEHAVIOUR IN COMPANY AND CONVERSATION

1st Every Action done in Company, ought to be with Some Sign of Respect, to those that are Present.

4th In the Presence of Others Sing not to yourself with a humming Noise, nor Drum with your Fingers or Feet.

6th Sleep not when others Speak, Sit not when others stand, Speak not when you Should hold your Peace, walk not on when others Stop.

8th At Play and at Fire its Good manners to Give Place to the last Commer, and affect not to Speak Louder than Ordinary.

12th Shake not the head, Feet, or Legs rowl not the Eyes lift not one eyebrow higher than the other wry not the mouth, and bedew no mans face with your Spittle, by appr[oaching too nea]r him [when] you Speak.

15th Keep your Nails clean and Short, also your Hands and Teeth Clean yet without Shewing any great Concern for them.

45th Being to advise or reprehend any one, consider whether it ought to be in publick or in Private; presently, or at Some other time in what terms to do it & in reproving Shew no Sign of Cholar but do it with all Sweetness and Mildness.

81st Be not Curious to Know the Affairs of Others neither approach those that Speak in Private.

82nd Undertake not what you cannot Perform but be Careful to keep your Promise.

89th Speak not Evil of the absent for it is unjust.

97th Put not another bit into your Mouth til the former be Swallowed [l]et not your Morsels be too big for the Gowls.

110th Labour to keep alive in your Breast that Little Spark of Ce[les]tial fire Called Conscience.

WHAT DO THESE RULES MEAN ANYWAY?

(Choose one of the rules from the excerpt from the Rules of Civility Document.)

1. Write out the rule as it appears on notebook paper.

**2. What do you think the rule means? Refer back to the rule and provide clues in your writing.**

**3. George Washington had many roles – Family Man, Soldier, Farmer, President. How might your chosen rule have helped Washington to be successful in that role?**

A RULE FOR ME

4. Select another of George Washington’s *Rules of Civility* that you think will help you to be successful in your future plans. Write it down.

5. Explain what you think this rule means. Again, refer back to the rule and provide clues in your writing.

6. Describe how using this rule to guide your behavior can help you be more successful in your plans for the future.

7. Think of your own rule of civility that would apply to your own generation (age group). How might it help your later in life?

  