TETON SIOUX

You are the leader of the Teton Sioux. Your nation is the most powerful of all the nations on the Great Plains. Your nation is feared and respected by all the nations in the Plains and along the Great River [Missouri]. You control trade and traffic along the Great River, and you only allow those who pay you tribute free passage along it, and through your lands.

Today a small band of white men have made there way into our lands. They travel in a large boat mounted with a powerful gun. The have many guns, much gun powder, horses, whiskey, tobacco, and other items to trade. It appears theirs is a rich and powerful nation.

The leaders of this band of white men have given you a hat and a cloak that appear to be the garments of a military leader. Around your neck they have placed a medal with a picture of a man they say is our new “Great Father” [Jefferson] in the east. They inform you that your land is now under the authority of this “Great Father” in the east.

They say they want peace and friendship, but that in order to form a pact of friendship with their nation, we will need to recognize the authority of their government and their leader over us.

They say they want to continue up the river to meet and trade with other nations, the Hidatsa, the Mandan, and others. These other nations are our enemies.

What could happen if the nation these white men represent form alliances and trade with our enemies?

**What should you do about this band of white men?**

* Let them continue freely up river.
* Swear loyalty to their leader [Jefferson] and form an alliance with them.
* Demand a fee of them for passage up the river (paid in gun powder, tobacco, whiskey, etc)
* Stop them from going further up the river, and send them back to their leader with a message- that the Teton Sioux do not recognize any nation’s authority over them.
* Kill them, and take their supplies.
* Other ideas…?

***Explain what you decide to do.***

**Your task:**

1. Write a complete description of your decision, **and** an explanation of ***why*** you think that is the right thing to do in this situation.
2. Explain the possible consequences of your decision.

\*To be completed in paragraph form on a sheet of white-lined paper.