**Preparing to Write: Identifying a Theme**

Common Sense was a best seller from the minute it was published. Historians say that half of

all colonists read it or had it read to them. (If a book were published today and half the U.S.

population read it, that would be more than 150 million people!)

Suppose you had a chance to publish Common Sense today. What would you put on the cover

of your pamphlet to entice people to buy it?

Design a front cover for the pamphlet. Include these elements:

• the title

• the author’s name

• the date of first publication

• a simple drawing that reflects the pamphlet’s theme

**Writing Copy for a Cover**

Now write the text for the pamphlet’s back cover. Include these elements in your copy:

• a two-sentence description of the author

• a paragraph explaining why Paine’s ideas seem to be “common sense”

Use