

## *The Travis Letter to General Sam Houston Commandancy of the Alamo*

Read the following letter written by William B. Travis, and answer the short essay questions that follow in complete sentences.

Bexar, Feb. 24th 1836

To the People of Texas &  
all Americans in the world-----

Fellow citizens & compatriots-----

I am besieged, by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna ----- I have sustained a continual bombardment & cannonade for 24 hours & have not lost a man ----- The enemy has demanded a Surrender at discretion, otherwise, the garrison are to be put to the sword, if the fort is taken ----- I have answered the demand with a cannon shot, & our flag still waves proudly from the wall ----- I shall never Surrender or retreat. Then, I call on you in the name of Liberty, of patriotism & everything dear to the American character, to come to our aid, with all dispatch ----- The enemy is receiving reinforcements daily & will no doubt increase to three or four thousand in four or five days. If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible & die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor & that of his country

-Victory or Death

William Barret Travis  
Lt. Col.  
Comdt

1. Describe the author's intent (what does he want/need?) of this letter. Answer in five complete sentences.

2. -Give your opinion on the circumstances surrounding the Alamo.

- Are the Texans justified in their opposition to Santa Anna's denial of their rights of a representative government (local control, and election of a representative in congress) promised in the Constitution of 1824?