

# **Student Essay on Pierre Trudeau**

## **Pierre Trudeau**

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## Essay

Pierre Trudeau's success at making Canada bilingual and his effort to make the country a Just Society are achievements that made him an honorable and inspirational prime minister. He acted forcefully when faced with decisions and did not wait for others to take initiative. An example of this would be when the separatist issue reached a crisis in October 1970. The separatist group FLQ kidnapped James Cross and Pierre Laporte. The FLQ was not afraid to use violent acts to achieve their goals and this caused anger and fear among residents of Montreal. Trudeau invoked the War Measures Act, which allowed police to arrest people without warrant, or due process of law. Two months later Cross was found and Laporte's murderers were arrested, tried and jailed. As a result of this response to the crisis, terrorism ceased in Quebec and Trudeau was closer to the just society he had dreamed of.

In 1969, as a response to the ongoing threat of separatism Trudeau passed the Official Languages Act, making French and English Canada's two official languages. He wanted to ensure that both French and English speakers would receive equal respect and opportunities everywhere in Canada. Trudeau's effort to protect the francophone minority and increase French-language education rights were an attempt to ease their fears of assimilation within the larger English-speaking population. Trudeau saw a Canada where everyone is equal under the law, where no one need suffer hatred or discrimination, and where no group is above another. His commitment to the just society he envisioned and his effort to protect the rights of both English and French Canadians are accomplishments that will never be disregarded.