

Name: _____

Date: _____ Period: ____

Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776

Objective: Analyze and explain how the Declaration of Independence and its list of grievances are related to the Enlightenment ideals of natural rights and social contract.

Thomas Jefferson and the other writers of the Declaration of Independence showed that the colonists had a right to separate from the king and have their own government. The political basis of the Declaration is founded on Enlightenment ideals that state people have certain rights and should give their consent for government power and authority.

Task:

- (1) Read the excerpts from the Declaration of Independence.
- (2) Highlight and annotate any Enlightenment connections or revolutionary causes **ON the TEXT!**
- (3) **LOOKUP** the meaning of any unknown words using dictionary.com. and **WRITE it DOWN** near the excerpt!
- (4) Critically answer the questions over each excerpt to gain a deeper understanding of the historical document and connect with the Enlightenment ideals the Declaration was founded on.

Make sure you thoroughly understand the meaning of the Declarations messages as well as the Enlightenment ideals it is founded upon as all will be needed to complete upcoming assignments!

PARTS DUE TOMORROW (10/10/19):

1. Preamble
2. Declaration of Rights
3. Grievances Page I

Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776

Preamble:

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

1. Summarize the above excerpt from the Declaration of Independence. Be sure to identify which Enlightenment writers ideas are expressed in the excerpt stating what impelling the signers to separate from England.

Declaration of Rights:

We hold these truths to be self-evident:

That all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

1. Highlight ON the TEXT three (3) Locke principles and number them 1,2,3. Then, state on the lines below which Locke principle was being applied by Jefferson.
 - a. Locke Connection #1: _____
 - b. Locke Connection #2: _____
 - c. Locke Connection #3: _____
2. According to the Declaration, where do governments derive their powers? _____
3. Which Enlightenment writer **AND** idea would support this belief about government power?

4. According to the Declaration, what is the purpose of government? _____
5. What course of action does Jefferson advocate when a government "becomes destructive" of its proper purposes?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
6. Explain which Enlightenment writer **AND** idea is reflected in Jefferson's claim what should happen when government "becomes destructive."

Grievances: Page I

Repeated Injuries and Usurpations:

But when a long train of abuses and usurpations...evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security...The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States.

1. What is the King of England being accused of doing, according to the Declaration?

2. Explain which Enlightenment writers theory on government would support that belief that a leader could possibly abuse their political power in a tyrannical way.

3. Jefferson listed 28 grievances held as evidence that King George had violated colonial rights. For each grievance below write it in common terminology **AND** identify what historical event is the grievance in reference to (think causes of revolution and separation).

To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world:

Grievance in Declaration:	Common Terms:	Historical Event:
He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.		
He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance...		
He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable and distant from the depository of their public records...		
He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly...		
He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone...		
He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.		
He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution...		
For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us.		
For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world.		

Grievances: Page II

Grievance in Declaration:	Common Terms:	Historical Event:
For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent.		
For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury.		
For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.		
He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.		
He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.		

Analysis of Grievances:

1. Which Enlightenment writer would support the colonists that it was a grievance that King George has "...refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good?" Explain why.

2. Based upon the grievances listed, what negative objective does "He" have in dissolving representative houses repeatedly, calling legislative bodies in distant places and making judges dependent on his will alone?

3. Which Enlightenment writer would support Jefferson in his description of dissolving of representative bodies, calling legislative bodies in distant places and making judges dependent on his will alone as a violation of power? Explain why.

4. Based on grievances against the king:
 - a. What did the king cut off in the colonies? _____
 - b. What did the king impose on the colonists? _____
 - c. What did the king deprive the colonists of? _____
5. How are the last two grievances outlined a violation of Locke's unalienable rights theory?

6. Many of the grievances listed outline how the British government, particularly the king, attempted to control the political power over the colonists. Which Enlightenment writer would believe this is wrong as it fails to include the people in government decision-making? _____

A prince, whose character...

In every stage of these oppressions we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms; our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

1. At every stage of these oppressions, by the British Empire and King George, what have the colonists done in reaction? _____
2. Which Enlightenment writer would support such action by the colonists? Explain why.

3. What is the central argument being made by Jefferson regarding King George in the above excerpt?

4. Which Enlightenment writer would support Jefferson's argument and name-calling? Explain why.

Resolution of Independence:

Free and Independent States:

We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

1. Who are the writers and Jefferson acting under the authority of? Why is this authority so momentous to world history?

2. What do the writers and Jefferson solemnly publish and declare? Why is this declaration so momentous to world history?

3. List the five actions the citizens of the new country now have the power to do:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 - e. _____
4. By writing the Declaration of Independence, the authors assumed several risks. In 18th century England, the penalty for treason was death by drawing and quartering. In their conclusions, what three things do the authors (and thus colonies) pledge to each other?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
5. What is the purpose of this Declaration? _____