

Student Declaration of Independence

Students, you will construct a Declaration of Independence from the school. Upon declaring independence you must make an announcement of your declaration. Within this declaration you must use similar wording as the original declaration.

Words to Know	Review Questions	Enduring Understandings
Student will know... <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social Contract• Natural Rights• Unalienable Rights	Student will be able to... <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compare and contrast the Declaration of Independence and the Social Contract Theory.• Evaluate the Declaration of Independence as a persuasive argument.• Model the major themes of the Declaration of Independence.	Student will understand that... <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The role of government within the American tradition has been formed upon established theories.• The creation of the American government was directly tied to the compromise and mutual beneficial relationship between those with power and those whom those with power represent.

Student Tasks

- 1) Pay attention to the notes given and DOI (p.771). Discuss the particular parts of the Declaration that you must include in your Student Declaration.
- 2) Break into groups of 4 and assign group jobs to each member, starting with the leader.
- 3) Complete the attached Declaration of Independence: In-depth Understanding Questions. These questions will help guide you through the process of creating your Student Declaration.
- 4) Construct a rough draft of your Declaration on paper and let each group member proof read and make corrections. This Declaration will be seen by school staff and administration (and possibly the School Superintendent).
- 5) Construct a Final Draft either on poster board or on the glogster online poster site. If you opt to do the glogster online poster you will need to present it in class. Posters made will be posted outside the classroom.

Declaration of Independence: In-depth Understanding Questions

Directions: Below are a series of questions that the signers of the Declaration of Independence would have asked themselves while composing the declaration. After composing your list of complaints, as a group, answer the following questions.

- 1) Make a list of complaints (serious effort) you have against the school. Your list must include at least 20 separate complaints. Your declaration should include more than half of those complaints.

- 2) To whom would you send your complaints? Why? What reasons would you give for your decision to write out your complaints?

- 3) What makes you think your complaints are worthwhile? Aren't there good reasons why things are the way they are? Why should things as they are be changed?
 - a. Would it be possible to summarize the thinking behind your desire for change in a single sentence? Write that sentence out.

- 4) Is there anything in particular the reader should notice about your complaints? Is there anything you need to keep in mind to make sure your audience understands and appreciates your complaints?
 - b. What kinds of events inspired your complaints?

- 5) Have you already tried to make any changes in the treatment of young people? In what way?

- 6) Is it possible to say in a single sentence what it is you really want to happen? It would take time to change the system to accommodate all of your complaints. What should happen right away?

- 7) Who would be willing to sign his/her name to this list of complaints even if it were going to be seen and read by many people?

- 8) All group members must sign the back of Declaration.

Rubric for Student Declaration of Independence Project

Students, be aware that copying directly from Source Material (either the Declaration of Independence, Social Contract Theory, or other published work) or another groups' work will result in a failure for the assignment.

	4 Points	2 Points	0 Points	Total
Mechanics (Grammar and Spelling)	Includes no <i>mechanical</i> errors that distract readers from the content.	Includes 3-4 <i>mechanical</i> errors that distract readers from the content.	Includes more than 4 <i>mechanical</i> errors that distract readers from the content.	
Specific Language	Includes numerous uses of <i>specific language</i> used in the original Declaration of Independence AND the Social Contract Theory that have been adjusted for the subject material.	Includes numerous uses of <i>specific language</i> used in the original Declaration of Independence OR the Social Contract Theory that have been adjusted for the subject material.	Use of <i>specific language</i> from the original Declaration of Independence and the Social Contract Theory are missing.	
Themes	Includes all <i>themes</i> of the Declaration of Independence that have been adjusted for the subject material.	Includes majority of <i>themes</i> of the Declaration of Independence that have been adjusted for the subject material	Includes some <i>themes</i> of the Declaration of Independence that have not been adjusted for the subject material.	
Persuasive Statement	Provides a clear, strong <i>persuasive statement</i> of the writers' position on the topic.	Includes <i>a persuasive statement</i> , but does not make the writers' position clear.	<i>Persuasive statement</i> is missing.	
<u>Grading Scale</u> 16 Points – Pass with Honors (100%) 14 Points – Pass with Merit (88%) 12-10 Points – Pass with Fortitude (75%) 10 Points – Pass (63%)		<u>Your Score</u>		
<u>Comments:</u>				