

In Congress, July 4, 1776

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America

Directions:

1. **Number the lines** of the preamble (introduction) to the Declaration below (1-6).
2. Read the Preamble (opening) to the Declaration of Independence, **highlighting** what you believe are the 5 most important words in the text.
3. Respond to the questions that follow with at least 2 sentences per question.

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. Discuss 2 terms that you highlighted. Why did you choose those particular terms?
2. According to this preamble, why is the Declaration being written? (Use the text to justify your response and then explain it)

(turn over)

Directions:

- a. Number the lines of the Statement of Rights (1-9) (abridged version).
- b. Highlight what you believe are **7-10 key words** in the text.
- c. Respond to the questions that follow with at least 2 sentences per question.

Statement 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. Why do you think the first 3 lines above have become the most famous part of the Declaration of Independence?

2. What were 2 key words that you highlighted between lines 4-9? Why do you think they are important to the document?

3. Paraphrase (put in your own words) what the following section is saying: “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”

4. Which Enlightenment philosopher would be most pleased with what the colonists are writing in the Declaration of Independence? Why?