

Declaration Of Independence: What are they complaining about?



July 1776, The 13 colonies declared our independence from England. As we have learned in class, the Declaration has 4 Parts. Thomas Jefferson, Ben Franklin, Roger Sherman, Robert Livingston, and John Adams wrote a beautiful document that was written like a persuasive essay (Main Idea, supporting detail, and conclusion). But what were the reasons for leaving the King?

Task:

1. You are going to analyze the British Wrongs

Step 1: Select 7 of the 14 wrongs that are listed by the writers.

Step 2: Look in your notes and identify the specific wrongs to which they are referring.

Step 3: Write your findings in a PowerPoint.

2. Analyze the argument that the writers make for independence.

Step 1: Hypothesize whether or not King took away the life liberty and property of the colonists? Do writers have a legitimate argument to rebel against the King.

Step 2: Write your answer into the PowerPoint.

Step 3: Support it with evidence from class discussions and assignments.

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What I am going to expect:

PowerPoint

Slide 1:

- Title,
- Name and section

Slides 2-8 (task 1)

- The British Wrong
- Evidence from your notes, assignments or text

Slide 9 and Possibly 10 (task 2)

- Hypothesis about the listed wrongs and their natural rights
- Evidence from the PowerPoint to support your hypothesis

Emailed to me

Subject must be Class<insert class letter> Declaration of Independence

Grading Procedure (50 Points)

1. PowerPoint (5 points)
 - a. 3 bullets per slide, 6 words per bullet
 - b. Is it well done: good transitions, grammar, sound...etc
2. Slide Content (45 points)
 - a. Title Slide → 2 point
 - b. Slides 2-8 → 3 points each
 - c. Slides 9 and 10 → 22 points
3. Material on each slide:
 - a. All the wrongs that you chose must have evidence that has been presented in class or in the Text Book: to prove the wrong had actually happened

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- b. You support your hypothesis with actual evidence from the power point

Declaration Of Independence: What are they complaining about?

Declaration of Independence for kids - in simple words, easy to understand

(from www.kidipede.com)

Declaration of Independence

In 1776, in the middle of the American Revolutionary War, the rich white men who were leaders of the war got together to write a letter to the King of England. They wanted to explain why they were fighting to be their own country, independent of England. This is what they had to say (but in easier words):

Preamble

Sometimes one group of people decides to split off from another group, and to become an independent country, as the laws of Nature and of God say that they can. But when this happens, if they want other people to respect them, they should explain why they are splitting off.

Natural Rights

We think these things are obviously true:

- That all men are created equal
- That all men have some rights given to them by God
- That among these rights are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

So whenever any government is getting in the way of these rights, people have the right to change it or get rid of it, and to make a new government, in whatever way seems most likely to make them safe and happy.

British Wrongs

People should not change their government without a good reason, so people usually suffer as long as they can under the government they have, rather than change it. But when there have been a lot of problems for a long time, it is their right and their duty to throw off that government, and to set up a better government.

We here in America have suffered for a very long time, and now we should change our government. The king of England has done many bad things to us - here is a list:

1. He won't let us pass laws we need for everybody's good.

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2. Even when we do pass laws, he won't sign them so they can go into effect.
3. He tried to force men to give up their right to make laws.
4. He calls men together to make laws in the most inconvenient times and places, so that they won't be able to go discuss the new laws.
5. He won't let new settlers come to America, and he won't let the settlers take over new land from the Native Americans.
6. He won't let us choose our own judges, and instead he chooses them all himself, so they're all on his side.
7. He sends lots of new government officials that we don't want, and he makes us pay for them.
8. He sends lots of English soldiers here when there isn't even a war, and makes us let them live in our own houses.
9. He tells us these soldiers can do whatever they want and don't have to obey the law.
10. He won't let us buy and sell things from wherever we want. We can only buy things from England.
11. He makes us pay all kinds of taxes without asking us about it.
12. He won't let us have a jury for our trials, only a judge.
13. He sends people accused of crimes far away to England for their trials.
14. He tries to get people to revolt and tries to get the "Indian Savages" to attack us.

When we ask him to stop, he just keeps on doing more bad things. We have tried to talk to the other people who live in England. We asked them to stop these crimes against us, but they have acted as though they were deaf. So we have to separate from England, and they will be our enemies during the war, though we hope they'll be our friends when there is peace.

Independence

So we think that God will see that we are doing the right thing when we declare that the United States are now completely independent of the King of England. We have no more political connection to England at all. And as independent states, we say that each state has the right to make war, to make peace, to make alliances with other countries, trade with other countries, and do everything else that countries do. And we promise that we will fight for our independence with the help of God - we promise by our lives, our property, and our sacred honor.