

Declaration of Independence



THE INFLUENCES
AND
STRUCTURE

The Four Parts



- Introduction
- Main Political and Philosophical Ideas
- The List of Grievances
- The Assertion of Sovereignty

Influences on the Declarations of Independence



- Read the Declaration of Independence
- Then read the following documents and fill out the chart:
 - John Locke's Second Treatise
 - Massachusetts Slave Petition
 - Malden Statement of Independence
 - Virginia Declaration of Rights

Guided Reading for Introduction



- Focus Questions as we read.
 - What is the main idea in this first part?
 - ✦ Why is it here?
 - ✦ WHY is it important?

Political and Philosophical Ideas



- Natural Rights
 - The Social Contract
 - The Right to Revolution
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- Identify and locate the three concepts in the text.
 - Re-write them in your own words and explain how they relate to the struggle between the English and American colonists.
 - How revolutionary were these ideas in two respects: how did they support the idea of revolution and, given the context of the times, why were these ideas unusual and new?

List of Grievances



- Analyze the list of grievances.
- Each of you will pick one grievance.
- Read and annotate: What it is saying, How does it relate to the struggle with England, and What is its significance.

The Assertion of Sovereignty



- Identify phrases in which the Americans assert their rights to popular sovereignty and self-determination, and where they say what they will do to achieve them.
- Explain these ideas in your own words.

Annotated Declaration of Independence



- Label the four sections of the Constitution.
- Highlight each of the primary source influences.
- Underline the philosophical influences.
- Identify and label the different types of grievances
- Underline key phrases from the Assertion of Sovereignty.

Assessment



- **Activity 1:** Students will take on the role of a colonial newspaper editor, preparing an editorial for July 5th, the day after the contents of the Declaration have become public. They will write a pro-independence or anti-independence editorial, depending on the viewpoint of their newspaper, explaining the main ideas of the Declaration, its ideological antecedents, and their approval/disapproval.

Assessment cont.



- **Activity 2:** Students should take on the role of a textbook editor and write a section about the background influences on the Declaration. They will write short paragraphs, explaining the key sections of the Declaration along with its "predecessor," and will include information about who wrote the document and its impact on the Declaration. They will include a chart, similar to the one used in this activity.

Groups: 3rd Period



Charles Kenny	Abijah Hannah	Demery Kaylee	Nichole Leah
Ashanti Jeff	Sincere Jelena	Luis Kordell	
Josh Andrew	Alyssa Amy	Casey Jesus	
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