

Declaration of Independence Rephrase Matching

Directions: match the original text excerpts with their corresponding, simplified excerpts.

Primary Source Excerpts from the Declaration of Independence

Preamble

Excerpt 1: “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.”

Natural Rights

Excerpt 2: “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.”

Excerpt 3: “That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”

Excerpt 4: “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.”

List of Grievances

Excerpt 5: “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.”

Excerpt 6: “To prove this [that England has interfered with colonial rights], let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.”

Excerpt 7: “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.”

Dissolving the Bonds

Excerpt 8: “We, therefore,...solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States.”

Rephrased Excerpts from the Declaration of Independence (Secondary Source)

A. *The king has hurt us many times. He bosses us around.*

B. *Everybody knows that we are all equal. People automatically have certain rights and nobody can take those rights away.*

C. *We are going to tell why the king is mean. He won't pass laws that help us.*

D. *People make the government. The purpose of government is to protect our rights.*

E. *When we complain to the king, he just becomes meaner. He shouldn't be our king.*

F. *When the government does not protect our rights, we can get rid of it. Then we can start a new government.*

G. *We are not going to be part of Great Britain anymore.*

H. *We want to explain why we don't want to be part of Britain anymore.*