



United States History

Interpreting the Declaration

Name:

Section:

Score _____ /5

Directions: Read over the excerpts of the Declaration below. In the space provided write in the passage in your own words, and then the significance of the passage as the meaning.

Actual Wording:

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.

Your Words:

Meaning:

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:

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,

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, 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.

Excerpt 8:
We, therefore, the Representatives
of the united States of America, in
General Congress, Assembled,
appealing to the Supreme Judge of
the world for the rectitude of our
intentions, do, in the Name, and by
Authority of the good People of
these Colonies, solemnly publish
and declare, That these united
Colonies are, and of Right ought to
be Free and Independent States,
that they are Absolved from all
Allegiance to the British Crown,

1. What is the importance of the Declaration of Independence?