

**Declaration of Independence: Making Comparisons
TEACHER'S COPY**

**Thomas Jefferson's
"original Rough draught" of
the Declaration of Independence***

**First printed version of
the Declaration of Independence****

A Declaration of the Representatives of the **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**, in General Congress assembled.

When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for **a** people to **advance from that subordination in which they have hitherto remained, &** to assume among the powers of the earth the **equal and independent** station to which the laws of nature **&** 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 change.

*This is a transcription of Thomas Jefferson's "original Rough draught" of the Declaration of Independence, June 1776, before it was revised by the other members of the Committee of Five and by Congress.

**This is a transcription of the first printed version of the Declaration of Independence, July 1776.

In Congress, July 4, 1776.

A Declaration **by** the Representatives of the **United States of America**, in General Congress **Assembled**.

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**.

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We hold these truths to be **sacred & undeniable**;

that all men are created equal **& independent**,

that **from that equal creation they derive in** rights **inherent & inalienable**, among **which** are **the preservation of** life, **&** liberty, **&** the pursuit of happiness;

that to secure these **ends**, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government **shall** become destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, **&** to institute new government, laying it's foundation on such principles **&** organising it's powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety **&** happiness.

We hold these truths to be **self-evident**,

that all men are created equal,

that **they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable** 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.

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prudence indeed will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light & transient causes:

and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.

but when a long train of abuses & usurpations

begun at a distinguished period, & pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to subject them to arbitrary power,

it is their right, it is their duty to throw off such government, & to provide new guards for their future security.

such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies; & such is now the necessity which constrains them to **expunge** their former systems of government.

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes;

and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.

But when a long train of abuses **and** usurpations,

pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to **reduce** them **under absolute despotism,**

it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, **and** to provide new guards for their future security.

Such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies; **and** such is now the necessity which constrains them to **alter** their former systems of government.

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the history of
his present **majesty**,

is a history of **unremitting** injuries and
usurpations, **among which no one fact**
stands single or solitary to contradict
the uniform tenor of the rest,

all **of which have** in direct

object the establishment of an absolute
tyranny over these states.
to prove this, let facts be submitted to
a candid world,
for the truth of which we pledge a faith
yet unsullied by falsehood.

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.
To prove this, let facts be submitted to
a candid world.