

## Declaration of Independence by Thomas Jefferson

### Questions

**Instructions:**

Read through the following questions.

With group, determine which questions are text-dependent.

Cut and paste questions using template.

*Note: In order to show the kind of depth and attention to detail called forth in the standards and considering possible time constraints, the following questions address only the first two paragraphs of the document.*

What is being announced in the first paragraph?	Jefferson declares the need for “a decent respect to the opinions of mankind.” Why is it important to have respect for other people’s opinions?
What does the word “necessary” mean? Why is the word “necessary” considered one of the most important words in the introductory paragraph?	Do you think the unalienable rights of individuals (as stated in the Declaration) are upheld today?
Is it confusing for the reader to see capitalization inconsistencies throughout the text in order to maintain conventionality to the original document?	What does “self-evident” mean? Which truths in the preamble are “self-evident”?
How does the introductory paragraph direct readers to a favorable view of America?	Which propositions found in the first two sentences of the preamble establish the right to a revolution?
How does the argument in the introduction advance from a trivial dispute with England to a monumental occurrence that changed the course of history?	How did Jefferson justify his argument in the preamble?
What could be the rationale for labeling the Americans “one people” and the British “another”? Why was it so important to define the groups as separate people?	What are some documents that influenced the authors of the Declaration?