

# The Declaration of Independence: A 3 Act Play

<b>Compelling Question</b>	Independence or Liberty – what is the lasting impact of this document?	
<b>AP Standard/Key Concept</b>	<p>Key Concept 3.1 — British attempts to assert tighter control over its North American colonies and the colonial resolve to pursue self-government led to a colonial independence movement and the Revolutionary War.</p> <p>II. The desire of many colonists to assert ideals of self-government in the face of renewed British imperial efforts led to a colonial independence movement and war with Britain.</p> <p>B. Colonial leaders based their calls for resistance to Britain on arguments about the rights of British subjects, the rights of the individual, local traditions of self-rule, and the ideas of the Enlightenment.</p> <p>C. The effort for American independence was energized by colonial leaders such as Benjamin Franklin, as well as by popular movements that included the political activism of laborers, artisans, and women</p>	
<b>Staging the Compelling Question</b>	<p>Use Lincoln’s quote – <i>I have never had a feeling politically that did not spring from the sentiments embodied in the Declaration of Independence.</i></p> <p>Discuss how the perception of the Declaration has changed over time.</p> <p>Discuss whether or not the Declaration of Independence is a historically significant document.</p>	
<b>Act I – Jefferson’s Lecture</b>	<b>Act II – A Taylor Swift Breakup Song: Bye George</b>	<b>Act III – Birth Announcement: I Now Present the USA</b>
<b>Supporting Question</b>	<b>Supporting Question</b>	<b>Supporting Question</b>
Which is most important – life, liberty, or the pursuit of happiness?	How does listing the King’s offenses support their case for independence?	To whom are the authors of this document appealing?

<b>Formative Performance Task</b>	<b>Formative Performance Task</b>	<b>Formative Performance Task</b>
Illustrate which of life, liberty, or the pursuit of happiness, you believe to be the most important.	Go through the 27 offenses and label each one as offending either life, liberty, or the pursuit of happiness.	Write a response from King George's desk to this closing declaration of freedom.
<b>Featured Sources</b>	<b>Featured Sources</b>	<b>Featured Sources</b>
Paragraphs 1 & 2 of the Declaration of Independence	King George's 27 Offenses in the middle of the Declaration of Independence	Final 2 Paragraphs of the Declaration of Independence
<b>Summative Performance Task</b>	<b>Argument (DBQ)</b>	Independence or Liberty – what is the lasting impact of this document?  Construct an argument supported with evidence from the document while acknowledging competing views that addresses the question of the lasting impact of the Declaration of Independence.
	<b>Extension</b>	Create a social media campaign for either King George or the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Continental Congress.
<b>Taking Informed Action</b>	<b>Understand:</b>	Does the Declaration of Independence still give the hope of liberty to the world?
	<b>Assess:</b>	How has the Declaration of Independence given hope of liberty to the world?
	<b>Act:</b>	Create an infographic poster displaying how the Declaration of Independence still gives the hope of liberty to the world.

### Argument Stems:

- The announcement of the United States as a free country led to the victory in the Revolutionary War and made the progress of liberty possible.
- Without the hope of the continual expanse of liberty to unify the country the newly formed free state would have crumpled within a generation of the War for Independence.

### Sources Used:

- Declaration of Independence - <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration-transcript>