Answer the following questions:

* State the purpose of the writing.

To list the colonists’ grievances against the English Monarch’s rule and declare independence.

* Name all the "truths" Jefferson states or implies.
  + All men are created equal.
  + They are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights.
    - Life.
    - Liberty.
    - Pursuit of Happiness.
  + 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 affect their Safety and Happiness.
* What is the purpose of governments?
  + To secure the unalienable Rights of Life, Liberty, and the Persuit of Happiness.
* How does Jefferson justify the rebellion?
  + 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.
* In your opinion, what are the five (5) worst offenses the king made?  In what ways did the colonies try to rectify the problem?
  + 1- lack of representation: The King tried to make it impossible for the colonials to represent themselves in England. The colonies tried to rectify this by creating their own organized congresses where delegates of each colony could represent them.
  + 2- negative reinforcement: Whenever a colony did something in opposition to the king, he punished them. Whenever a colony obeyed the king’s orders, he did nothing. This form of negative reinforcement caused the colonials to escalate from simple non-violent protests to militias.
  + 3- breaking down colonial representation: The King actively denounced colonial representation, and considered such an act conspiring against the King.
  + 4- quartering: The King allowed the quartering of a live army in times of peace.
  + 5- preventing trade: The colonials were not allowed to trade with any other country than England. The turned to smuggling instead.

Next, read Colin Powell's "Our Obligation as Patriots" on page 476 of your text.  Answer the following questions:

* What does Powell mean that Jefferson and others "were willing to sign away everything... to bring those words to life"?

Anyone who signed that document was condemning themselves as traitors to the English crown. By signing, Jefferson and others were committing themselves to their cause, knowing they would be killed if they failed.

* Powell concedes that America is not perfect.  What do you see as needing improvement in America (politically) and how could you, as a single citizen, address that need?

I believe that our political system has started to work against change in our country. Imposing mandatory term limits in all governing positions, as well as outlawing lobbying, would help promote circulation of newer, more well informed ideas in government.

* What do you see as the primary goal of America?

As an experimental staging ground of a new system of ideology. America’s form of government is fundamentally different than anything that has ever existed in terms of politics and culture. As this experiment continues and grows, these ideas are spread to other countries in the world, and new countries that spring up adopt them.