**Declaration of Independence**

**Part A.** Read the quotes from the preamble of the Declaration of Independence. Define the key terms that are listed in the middle section (look them up online!), and then in the right column, put the quote into your own words (using the definitions you’ve created).

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Quotes from the  Declaration of Independence | Definitions of key terms | In my own words,  what does this quote mean? |
| People are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; | * Endowed = given * Unalienable = can’t be taken away * Rights = guarantees/freedoms | The people are given freedoms that can’t be taken away. |
| Governments are instituted among men to secure these rights; | * Instituted = * Secure = * Rights = |  |
| Governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed; | * Derive = * Consent = * “The governed” = |  |
| Whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute new government. | * Destructive = * Alter = * Abolish = * To institute = |  |

**Part B.** Think about the colonial complaints that led to the writing of the Declaration of Independence AND how those complaints were a direct violation of their natural rights. Pretend that you are a news reporter when the Declaration of Independence was signed. Create a short news report from the scene and pretend to interview Thomas Jefferson, the main author of the Declaration. In your interview, choose one grievance (or complaint) from column A and have Jefferson explain how that grievance violated one of the natural rights from column B and why the colonies should declare themselves as “free and independent states.”

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| Column A | Column B |
| **List of Grievances** | **List of Natural Rights** |
| 1. imposing taxes without the  consent of the people | 1. life |
| 2. suspending trial by jury | 2. liberty |
| 3. limiting judicial powers | 3. pursuit of happiness |
| 4. quartering soldiers |  |
| 5. dissolving legislatures |  |

News Report (your interview with Thomas Jefferson):

You:

Thomas Jefferson (TJ):

You:

TJ:

You:

TJ:

You:

TJ: