**Journal Assignment #1**

1. Pick one of the five sections of the Declaration of Independence. Please indicate which section your are choosing to respond to in your journal:
   * *Section 1*: “When in the course of human events…” (1).
   * *Section 2*: “We hold these truths to be self-evident…” (1).
   * *Section 3*: “Such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies…” (1).
   * *Section 4*: “In every stage of these Oppressions We have…” (2).
   * *Section 5*: “We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America…” (2).
2. Write down your initial **impressions** of the section. Use full sentences, please!

* What did you “know” about the Declaration before reading it? How did you react to the section? How did reading the section confirm or alter your prior assumptions about it? Be as specific as possible.

1. Next, note your **observations** about the section. What did you observe? Practice your close reading skills.
   * What key words or phrases stood out? What seems important or worth noting?
   * What kinds of patterns emerged in the language, the structure, or the syntax? Use specific examples when referring to the patterns.
2. Finally, try and begin to **analyze and interpret** the section.

* What do the details in your observations, impressions, and patterns support/contradict/explain about the section?
* Think about how these details contribute to the tone, themes, and arguments of the text.