

- ★ **announced our  
independence  
(from Great Britain)**
- ★ **declared our  
independence  
(from Great Britain)**
- ★ **said that the United  
States is free  
(from Great Britain)**

**Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and  
Thomas Jefferson in “Writing the  
Declaration of Independence, 1776,”  
by Jean Leon Gerome Ferris.**

**Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USZC4-9904.**

