1. To obtain the respect of others, you must explain the reasons for your actions.

Premises:

1. All men are endowed by their Creator with the same inherent rights [to live (life), to be free to choose personal actions/behaviors (liberty), to incur the benefits/results of choices of actions/behaviors (pursuit of happiness)].
2. The purpose of government is to secure and protect these rights.
3. It is the right of the governed people to change any government that does not fulfill its purpose.
4. The 13 United States are composed of people governed by King George of England.
5. King George governs in a manner that does not fulfill the purpose of a government.
   1. King George is a tyrant (for a variety of listed reasons).
   2. Tyrants govern in a manner that does not fulfill the purpose of government..

Conclusion:

Therefore, the 13 United States have the right to change their government from King George to a government that fulfills its purpose (i.e. free and independent states).

1. Analysis

Logic:

Governed individuals have rights

Government = protection of rights

If government does not protect rights, governed individuals must change government

Current government does not protect rights

Therefore, must change current government

The logic is clear and valid.

Premises:

Premises d and e are accurate

The more interesting premises to discuss are a-c.

The accuracy of premise a involves individuals having rights that are not granted by other human individuals or collections of individuals. The purpose of the premise is to say that individuals have rights that are outside of human based coercive forces (strength/power, economics, position, etc.). Hence, a government cannot take away rights it did not grant (definition of ‘inalienable’). The accuracy of this premise is based on the existence of a Creator who is not human, i.e. God.

Premise b states that the purpose of government is to protect the rights granted in premise a, i.e. that the purpose of government is to serve the people whom they govern. Premise c is a basic statement of the idea of a democratic principle of government, i.e. that the governed people determine the type of government. These are basic statements of the nature of community and interpersonal interactions.

By extension, the DI is thought of as the foundation for the reason the U.S. of America has the right to exist as an independent nation in the world. Note that if any of the premises of an argument are not accurate, the conclusion is not supportable. For example, an atheist or a monarchist could not use this argument to support having the rights of an American citizen.

1. In the case of governments in other countries (at which we are not at war), the issue of ‘human’ rights is usually the basis for the U.S. critical argument of involvement. For example, for countries governed by tyrants/dictators or non-democratic governments, the U.S. argument would primarily be based on premise a of the DI. Interestingly, as the U.S. becomes less religious, this would imply that premise a is less accurate for the U.S. and hence the DI argument is less valid for supporting changes of human rights in other countries.