Name: _____ C: _____
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Excerpts from the Declaration of Independence

We hold these truths to be **self-evident** [crystal clear], that all men are created equal, that they are **endowed** [awarded] by their Creator with certain **unalienable** [essential] Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these rights, Governments are **instituted** [created] among Men, **deriving** [getting] their just powers from the consent of the governed,—

But when a long train of abuses and **usurpations** [taking power and property by force], pursuing invariably the same Object **evinces** [shows] a design to reduce them under absolute **Despotism** [tyranny], it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.

Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which **constrains** [forces] them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute **Tyranny** [abuse of power] over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a **candid** [honest] world…

Excerpts from the Declaration of Independence

In every stage of these **Oppressions** [domination] We have Petitioned for **Redress** [compensation] in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people…

That these united Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are **Absolved** [cleared] from all **Allegiance** [loyalty] to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to **levy** [make] War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do.

And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of **Divine Providence** [God], we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.