

When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, 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 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 over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world...

Stop Bitching and Start the Revolution

...the Revolution

...the Revolution

The Declaration of Independence - What is in a Passage?

The Declaration of Independence is arguably the most eloquent historical document in American History. Its significance certainly cannot be overlooked. And it absolutely serves as a basis for everything that follows. The Constitution of the United States which guides our nation today fulfills the mission of the Declaration. If that's the case then we better know what this all means...

Take the following passages - identify key words - break it down into a voice that you understand - and then bring it into today's world.

#1 - When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

In the course of human events: (what does this mean?)

Laws of Nature and Nature's God (why both? what is the difference?)

a decent respect to the opinions of mankind (who are we talking about and what does it mean?)

they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. (who are they & what separation?)

Stanza one in your own words: _____

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

We hold these truths to be self-evident: (what does this mean? what truths is he talking about? list them)

Endowed by a creator (who is the creator? what does endowed mean?)

certain unalienable Rights, (what exactly are unalienable rights (in the text)? What do they mean in today's terminology? What are your unalienable rights?)

Governments are instituted among Men - (Why? What is the one reason and where do they get their power?)

Stanza two in your own words: _____

#3 - *That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.*

A government becomes destructive of these ends. (What ends are we talking about?)

the Right (of the people) to alter or abolish? (What words besides alter or abolish would serve the same purpose?)

laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such forms (to what ends? why would you foundation and organize powers in such forms? To do what?)

Stanza three in your own words: _____

#4 - Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.

Prudence, indeed - transient causes (What is prudence? What is transient? Should governments be changed for transient reasons? Why or why not?)

mankind are more disposed to suffer / than to right themselves by abolishing (What will mankind do - as opposed to what they probably should do? Is that true in your life?)

when a long train of abuses and usurpations - reduce them under absolute Despotism (what is Despotism? What relationship do the abuses have to do with Despotism?)

it is their right, it is their duty (to do what?)

Stanza four in your own words: _____

#5 - Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains 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 over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world...

patient sufferance of these Colonies (what does patient sufferance mean? What has been the sufferance of these colonies?)

What is the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. (what should they do with their old government? why?)

injuries, ursupations, and absolute Tyranny (What relationship do injuries, ursupations Tyranny and Britain have in common here?)

Let Facts be submitted to a candid world (what does this mean?)

Stanza five in your own words: _____

#6 - He has. He has. He has. Choose three things that the KING has done that violate the principles laid out in the first portion of the Declaration. Write each in your own words. What is the significance of each?

#1 _____

#2

#3

#7 We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance 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 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, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

Supreme Judge of the World, divine Providence (Who are we talking about here? Why the difference in the terminology? How many other times in the text is the individual cited? Go and count them and provide the other names...)

Why is the above issue and the various names such a big deal?

That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States (what does this mean? What would this require in regards to the British relationship?)

Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown (what does it mean? What would be the result of this?)
