

Task: DBQ Declaration of Independence

Standards addressed:

- Explain the intent and significance of the Declaration of Independence
- Cite specific textual evidence to support an analysis of a source

Task:

Historians have different interpretations of why our Founding Fathers wrote the Declaration of Independence. For this task, you will be looking at three sources: The Declaration of Independence and two historian's claims regarding the Declaration. With these sources, you will be doing the following:

1. Determine each historian's central claim, along with the evidence they present to support their claim. Write each on the graphic organizer.
2. Read the Declaration of Independence, specifically focusing on the grievances the colonists listed against King George. In front of each grievance, write "O" if the grievance seems to be something that would affect only the rich and powerful colonists, or write "A" if that grievance would affect all colonists.
3. Write a paragraph that explains, in your opinion, why the Founding Fathers wrote the Declaration of Independence. Was it for selfish or idealistic reasons? Make sure to incorporate what you have learned in steps 1-3 above. Please see the rubric below for specific guidelines.

Rubric:

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Multiplier</u>	<u>0/1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
Determining Claims		Student correctly determines neither historian's central claim	Student correctly determines one historian's central claim	Student correctly determines both historian's central claim
Determining Evidence	x2	Student inadequately determines the support of one of the historians	Student somewhat determines both historian's support	Student fully determines both historian's support
Organizing Grievances		Student does not mark up the grievances on the Declaration	Student marks Os and As on the Declaration	
Paragraph - Making a claim		Student does not answer the essential question in the paragraph		Student does answer the essential question in the paragraph
Paragraph - Using support	x2	Student does not use evidence from the Declaration to support his/her claim	Student inadequately uses evidence from the Declaration to support his/her claim	Student adequately uses evidence from the Declaration to support his/her claim