

# Your Own Declaration

I have overheard students, at times, making various complaints about the treatment of young people. Complaints not unlike those motivated the Founding Fathers at the time of the American Revolution. Now you are going to write your own declaration. Pick a complaint that young people have. Make that complaint the subject for your own declaration. The Declaration of Independence (DOI) will serve as a model.

## Required Components:

- all four of the sections that were in the original Declaration of Independence.
- should start with "When, in the course of human events..."
- include and explain at least four ideals or principles (Great Debate Handbook) from the DOI
- should include at least five of the "meanings" from the "Matrix of Excerpts from the DOI"

## Required Details for your Declaration of Independence (DOI):

- **Preamble:** the reasons for writing down the Declaration (from "WHEN, in the Course of human Events" to "declare the Causes which impel them to the Separation.").
  - In your "preamble", describe your reasons for writing your declaration.
- **Declaration of Rights (Statement of beliefs):** specifying what the undersigned believe, the philosophy behind the document (from "We hold these Truths to be self-evident" to "an absolute Tyranny over these States").
  - In your "Declaration of Rights", describe what natural rights you believe you possess.
- **List of Grievances (List of complaints):** the offenses that impelled the declaration (from "To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World" to "unfit to be the ruler of a free people").
  - In your "List of Grievances":
    - \* list the complaints you have for your subject
    - \* statement of prior attempts to redress grievances  
(What have you tried to do or what have you done to fix this problem or situation.)
- **Resolution of Independence (Declaration of independence):** (From "WE, therefore" to "and our sacred Honour.")
  - In your "Resolution of Independence":
    - \* Make a statement declaring your independence
    - \* Describe what you are going to do with your independence.

**The signatures:** Have others sign the document, but have your signature be the biggest (by far).

\* **IMPORTANT:** Label and Underline each section of your declaration: Preamble, Declaration of Rights, List of Grievances, and Resolution of Independence

Put your heading of Name, Date and Period on the back of your document.