**Declaration of Independence: RRJ activity name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

INCLUDE DON’T INCLUDE

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| COLUMN 1 | 1. Direct quotes  2. Paraphrases of important passages  3 . Line numbers and/or page numbers | 1. Examples of terms (highlighted, annotated, identified in text itself)  2. Definitions for unfamiliar words (highlighted, annotated, defined in text itself)  3. No less than 3 key passages; no more than 5 key passages |
| COLUMN 2 | 1. A response for everything found in column 1  2. Questions specific to that passage  3. Connections to other texts  4. Analysis of importance of passage  5. Analysis of terms found in passage | 1. Summary. |

At the end of the document, include a brief (3-4 sentence) summary of the text.

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.

5 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 10 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 has shown 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 15 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.

[NOTE: In this extracted section, Jefferson lists the many, many, *many* abuses Britain has perpetuated on the American people. I can easily summarize this entire section: the English are jerks.]

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress\* in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions 20 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.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren\*. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction\* over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration\* and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity\*, and we have conjured them 25 by the ties of our common kindred to disavow\* these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity\*. We must, therefore, acquiesce\* in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the 30 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 35 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.

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| “equal station” (2): Jefferson here means that people are born with equal rights | entitle (3): give someone the right to do something | impel (4): drive, force, urge someone into action | endowed (5): provide with a quality or asset |
| instituted (7): established | consent (7): permission | effect (10): as a verb, to bring into existence | Prudence (10): wisdom or caution |
| transient (11): temporary | disposed (12): inclined or willing | usurpations (13): wrongful or illegal seizure or action | “same object evinces a design” (13): the long train of abuses mentioned in the first part of the sentence establish a pattern |
| sufferance (15): absence of objection but not approval | Redress (19): compensation | brethren (22): brothers (not literal) | jurisdiction (23): official power to make legal/judicial decisions |
| emigration (24): leaving one country to settle in another | magnanimity (26): generosity | acquiesce (26): agree | consangunity (26): shared heritage; brotherhood (not literal) |
| rectitude (30): morally correct behavior | Absolved (32): declare free from guilt | levy (34): act of enlisting troops |  |

COLUMN 1 COLUMN 2