

Declaration of Independence Summary Assignment

Directions:

Identify and organize the major ideas contained in the four sections of the Declaration of Independence. Use your own words to convey these ideas in a more concise form by combining ideas and paring down to the essentials. The final draft should maintain the same meaning as the original but be only about one third of the length (1 typed page).

Avoid interpretation, tell your audience what the document says and not what you think it means.

The “King’s Wrongs” section should be limited to ten items that represent the types of charges the Americas are making.

You may work with a partner on this assignment, but choose wisely and divide tasks equally.

Remember to edit and proofread your work before submitting the final copy

Sections of Document:

Preamble; Natural Rights; King’s Wrongs; Independent Nation

Assessment Criteria:

Summary	Conventions	Work habits
Adheres to summary format Effectively summarizes all main points of document without forgetting essential information (unnecessary details are omitted) Demonstrates understanding	Demonstrates control of grammar, usage and mechanics	Uses time wisely Work split equally between partners

Guidelines for Writing a Summary:

1. **Skim** the selection to get the overall meaning.
2. **Read** the selection carefully noting the key words and phrases used (check meanings of words you are not familiar with)
3. **List** the main ideas of the selection
4. **Review** the selection again to make sure you understand the overall meaning before you start writing.
5. **Write** a summary of the major ideas in you own words.
 - Some original words may remain if there is simply no other way to write it without losing essential meaning (for example: Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness)
 - Your first sentence in each section should be a clear statement of the main idea (topic sentence)
 - Write each important idea as one clear sentence
 - Arrange ideas in a logical order so the important ideas flow together as in the original work
 - Use a concluding sentence that brings all of the main points together.

Have you included all main ideas?

Have I eliminated unnecessary detail?

Could another person read this summary and understand what the original document says?