

## Your Personal Declaration of Independence Assignment

Think about the things that you are dependent on – that is, the things in your life that you think you cannot live without because you rely upon them (friends, family, your faith, material possessions, some food item). Now choose one of these things that you would want to separate from, something that you would like to live without because this thing is a bad thing for you (it causes you grief, it makes your life difficult, it prevents you from being the best person you can be . . . ). The American colonists chose to separate from the British government because they felt it was a tyrannical presence in the colonies; you will choose something more personal yet something that still makes your life if not miserable, then at least not as good as you would like it to be. If there is nothing you wish to separate from, then make something up; be creative. Though the original Declaration isn't a humorous document, *you may use humor in this assignment if done appropriately.*

**Now, using the style of the Declaration of Independence, write your own Declaration.**

### Your declaration must:

- Be turned in at the beginning of class on **Wednesday, 12/03** (either “Shared” or printed) ***\*If you want to present it for extra credit, I recommend printing it.***
- Be about 300-400 words. (Stop crying. *This page* is almost 400 words.)
- Be **typed** in paragraph form (not one long paragraph).
- Use the *style of writing* (**elevated language**) from the original Declaration of Independence.
- Use multiple **parallel structures** (**parallelism**) and **repetition** in order to convey ideas of equal importance.
- Use multiple **allusions** (historical, Biblical, literary) to express ideas
- Follow the format of the original Declaration:
  - an introduction
  - [1] a description of what your fundamental rights are
  - [2], a complaint against that which you wish to separate from
  - [3-5], a list of what this person or thing has done to wrong you
  - [6-19], a description of what you have done to try to make the situation better
  - [20], and a conclusion that includes your declaration of independence [21]

\*the brackets [ ] refer to the paragraphs in the copy of the Declaration of Independence we used in class

\*Extra credit for ***authentically creative embellishments***

\*Extra credit for ***presenting your declaration to the class***