

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date Due \_\_\_\_\_

### **Thematic Essay**

*Directions:* Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs addressing the task below, and a conclusion.

**Theme:** Growth of Democracy

From its earliest times, the American Colonies valued democracy and rights of the people. Democracy is a form of government in which the power is given to the people and used directly by them or by their elected representatives under a free election system. The rights that the colonists valued included many ideas from Enlightenment thinkers such as Locke, Rousseau, Voltaire, and Montesquieu. These ideas contributed to the colonies' eventual desire to be an independent nation.

**Task:**

Explain how the Declaration of Independence expressed the importance of democracy and rights of the people.

Give at least two specific examples from the Declaration of Independence in your answer.

**Suggestions:**

Some suggestions you might wish to consider include: Democracy- consent of the governed and representation; Rights of the People- natural rights and equality under the law

**You are not limited to these suggestions.**

## Declaration of Independence Outline

	<b>Examples</b>
<b>Democracy</b>	<p><u>Consent of the Governed</u>- the belief that a government's right to use its power is only allowed when that power comes from the people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beliefs section- Governments get their powers from the “consent of the governed” (approval from the people)</li> <li>• Grievances section 2- King kept military by citizens without the permission of the colonial governments</li> <li>• Grievances section 2- King took military power away from the people</li> <li>• Grievances section 3- Citizens were taxed without having representation in the British Parliament</li> <li>• Grievances section 4- The King abolished many laws and altered the format of colonial government</li> </ul> <p><u>Representation</u>- people are elected to represent the citizens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grievances section 1- King refused to agree to laws which were needed for the public good</li> <li>• Grievances section 1- The King called Parliament to meet at places that they did not usually meet - places that were far from home and uncomfortable, with the intent of wearing them out so they didn't have the energy to object to his proposals</li> <li>• Grievances section 1- King broke up legislatures often</li> </ul>
<b>Rights of the People</b>	<p><u>Natural Rights</u>- rights that do not necessarily come from laws, customs, or beliefs of any particular culture or government, and as a result are rights that everyone has and that cannot be taken away</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preamble- people have laws of nature</li> <li>• Beliefs section- people have natural rights: “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness”</li> <li>• Beliefs section- if a government does not uphold rights, people have the right to abolish the government and create a new government</li> <li>• Grievances section 2- The King kept standing armies among his citizens</li> <li>• Grievances section 3- quartered soldiers in citizens’ homes</li> <li>• Grievances section 5- the King declared that he would not protect the colonies and then went to war against them</li> <li>• Grievances section 5- King allowed colonists to suffer and destroyed their lives</li> <li>• Grievances section 5- King allowed Native Americans to harm colonists</li> </ul> <p><u>Equality Under the Law</u>- all people are treated equally by the laws of justice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grievances section 2- King influenced judges by threatening their jobs and their salaries</li> <li>• Grievances section 4- Many people were denied a trial by jury or were not given a trial in the colonies but in England</li> </ul>