

Part IV – Attempts to Address Grievances

In every stage of these Oppressions, We have petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions 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 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.

Questions:

1. How did the colonists try to address these grievances earlier?

2. Why did they feel it was necessary to state this in the Declaration?

Part V – Declaring Independence

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

Questions:

1. What words from this paragraph actually declare the colonists' independence?

2. What rights and powers do they state that they now have?

Group Work!

Directions: Grievances: Group 1

1. Read the complaints assigned to your group.
2. Discuss each complaint with your group, and then answer the questions below.
3. Select recorder, readers (2-3), and a presenter.
 - A recorder writes up the notes from the group discussion and hands them to the presenter. (Group should discuss notes before being presented.)
 - The readers read the original complaints aloud to the class. The presenter will read the groups responses to the class.
 - All members of the group will participate and give their ideas as the group discusses the complaints.

To Prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

Questions:

1. What is each complaint about? Write a brief description of each complaint in your own words.
2. Who is "He" that the colonists refer to in the grievances?
3. Who are the colonists blaming for their grievances? Why do you think they are blaming him?

Directions: Grievances: Group 2

1. Read the complaints assigned to your group.
2. Discuss each complaint with your group, and then answer the questions below.
3. Select recorder, readers (2-3), and a presenter.
 - A recorder writes up the notes from the group discussion and hands them to the presenter. (Group should discuss notes before being presented.)
 - The readers read the original complaints aloud to the class. The presenter will read the groups responses to the class.
 - All members of the group will participate and give their ideas as the group discusses the complaints.

To Prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

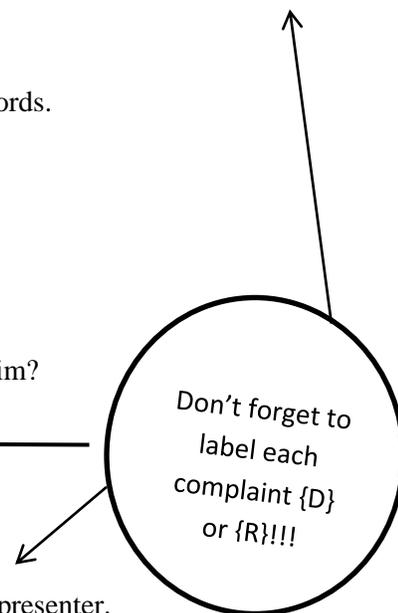
He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power.

Questions:

1. What is each complaint about? Write a brief description of each complaint in your own words.



2. Who is “He” that the colonists refer to in the grievances?

3. Who are the colonists blaming for their grievances? Why do you think they are blaming him?



Directions: Grievances: Group 3

1. Read the complaints assigned to your group.
2. Discuss each complaint with your group, and then answer the questions below.
3. Select recorder, readers (2-3), and a presenter.
 - A recorder writes up the notes from the group discussion and hands them to the presenter.
 - (Group should discuss notes before being presented.)
 - The readers read the original complaints aloud to the class. The presenter will read the groups responses to the class.
 - All members of the group will participate and give their ideas as the group discusses the complaints.

To Prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has combined with others to subject us...to their Acts of pretended legislation:

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us: For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our consent:

Questions:

1. What is each complaint about? Write a brief description of each complaint in your own words.

2. Who is “He” that the colonists refer to in the grievances?

3. Who are the colonists blaming for their grievances? Why do you think they are blaming him?

Directions Grievances: Group 4

1. Read the complaints assigned to your group.
2. Discuss each complaint with your group, and then answer the questions below.
3. Select recorder, readers (2-3), and a presenter.
 - A recorder writes up the notes from the group discussion and hands them to the presenter. (Group should discuss notes before being presented.)
 - The readers read the original complaints aloud to the class. The presenter will read the groups responses to the class.
 - All members of the group will participate and give their ideas as the group discusses the complaints.

To Prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has combined with others to subject us...to their Acts of pretended legislation:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury: For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

Questions:

1. What is each complaint about? Write a brief description of each complaint in your own words.
2. Who is "He" that the colonists refer to in the grievances?
3. Who are the colonists blaming for their grievances? Why do you think they are blaming him?



Directions: Grievances: Group 5

1. Read the complaints assigned to your group.
2. Discuss each complaint with your group, and then answer the questions below.
3. Select recorder, readers (2-3), and a presenter.
 - A recorder writes up the notes from the group discussion and hands them to the presenter. (Group should discuss notes before being presented.)
 - The readers read the original complaints aloud to the class. The presenter will read the groups responses to the class.
 - All members of the group will participate and give their ideas as the group discusses the complaints.

To Prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging war against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He has excited domestic insurrection amongst us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian savages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes, and conditions.

Questions:

1. What is each complaint about? Write a brief description of each complaint in your own words.
2. Who is "He" that the colonists refer to in the grievances?
3. Who are the colonists blaming for their grievances? Why do you think they are blaming him?