

• • • WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS • • •

Name _____

Read the paragraphs and answer the questions.

The most persuasive voice for American independence belonged not to an American but to a British subject. Thomas Paine came to the colonies from England in 1774. An enemy of monarchy and of King George III, Paine wrote a pamphlet called *Common Sense*. In it he presented to the colonists arguments for independence. George Washington said that *Common Sense* contained "unanswerable reasoning." It was undoubtedly the chief cause of his decision to support American independence.

1. List two facts you read. _____

2. List one opinion you read in the paragraph. _____

3. What is the author's viewpoint in this paragraph? _____

Thomas Jefferson is considered to be America's chief Revolutionary hero. His political ideas in the Declaration laid the foundation for the new nation. Besides this accomplishment, he was an architect, a lawyer, an amateur musician and naturalist, and an inventor. Later Thomas Jefferson served as President of the United States.

4. List two facts you read in the paragraph. _____

5. List one opinion you read. _____

6. What is the author's purpose? _____
7. What is the author's viewpoint? _____

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A. Read each part of the Declaration of Independence and the paraphrase that follows it. Then answer the questions.

“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 scheduled meetings far from legislators’ offices in order to make them so tired that they will agree to whatever he wants.

1. Is this a good paraphrase of the statement? _____
2. Why or why not? _____

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

He supports the military in all matters.

3. Is this a good paraphrase of the statement? _____
4. Why or why not? _____

B. Read each statement from the Declaration, and write your own paraphrase.

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

2. “He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coast, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.”

