

I Declare

CRAFTING YOUR OWN
DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE



resource information

Standards:

- ALCOS.SS.2010.5.8
- ALCOS.SS.2010.10.3
- ALCOS.SS.2010.12G.2

Objectives:

- I can create my own Declaration of Independence from a topic of my choosing.
- I can identify the structure of the Declaration of Independence.
- I can summarize the main ideas of the Declaration of Independence.
- I can explain the significance of Declaration of Independence.



lesson plan

Engage:

- Bell Ringer
 - What is something you would like to declare independence from?

Explore:

- Investigate the Declaration of Independence
 - Provide students with a transcript of the document
 - Allow them to work in groups or individually to annotate what stands out to them.
 - Mount Vernon's Transcript

Explain:

- What are the four parts of the Declaration of Independence?
 - Preamble
 - Declaration of Natural Rights
 - Grievances
 - Resolution of Independence
- What is the significance of each section?

Elaborate:

- Writing your own Declaration
 - A preamble beginning with, "When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary tothen state what you are declaring independence from.
 - A statement of what rights you feel have been violated and why you feel they are important. (for example, if you are declaring independence from your job, the right of sleep perhaps?)
 - List of Grievances! List your grievances (problem) in order, as the Declaration does.
 - Conclusion - Begin with "Therefore.." and declare that independence!
 - Put your "John Hancock" on the document prominently!

lesson plan

Evaluate:

- Suggested: Create a rubric assessing creativity/originality, structure, grammar, etc.

Extend:

- Art: Allow students to create and submit artwork to go with their document.
- STEM: Discuss paper and ink traditionally used in the 1700s and how to get the "old" look. Allow students to make their document look old.