

Name: _____ Hour: _____

Declaration of Independence Paraphrase Assignment (Paraphrasing is taking something written in complex or outdated language and restating it in plain, simple, modern English - hopefully without losing anything important. Paraphrase the excerpts below in the provided spaces.

The Declaration of Independence	Your Paraphrase
When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.	<i>Sometimes in history, a group of people needs to break away from the government that has been ruling over them and become their own independent nation with equal rights among all other countries. When this happens, it's only right that they explain to the world why they feel they must separate and form their own government.</i>
We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--	
That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --	
That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.	

Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.	<i>Common sense tells us that governments that have been around for a long time shouldn't be overthrown for small or temporary problems. History shows us that people would rather put up with problems they can tolerate than go through the trouble of getting rid of the government they're used to, even when treated badly.</i>
But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.--	
Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government.	
The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.	
<i>{This is followed by a long list of specific complaints about the King of England and his poor treatment of the American colonies.}</i>	<i>{This is followed by a long list of specific complaints about the King of England and his poor treatment of the American colonies.}</i>