

The Declaration of Independence ... in Plain English

The Preamble (why this document was created):

Sometimes in the course of certain events there comes a time when a certain group feels the need to dissolve the political bands that have connected them with another, or in other words split up. We believe that God has entitled us to pursue this course and here are the reasons why we feel this way.

Part One: The Right of the People to Control Their Government

As people that have founded this land we believe certain truths and those should not be questioned. We believe that everyone is created equal in the sight of God. God has given us certain rights that need to be respected and cannot be taken away. We believe in the rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We also believe that governments are formed to protect these certain rights and that the power of the government comes from the power of the people.

We also believe that if the government fails to protect the rights of its people, then the people have the right to change the government. The government can be totally changed if it needs to be. This happens so that everyone can be happy and safe.

If a government has been around for a long time, you should not change it just because of some little thing. But when a long list of bad things happens, it is the right and duty of the people to get rid of that evil government and set up a new one that will protect their rights in the future.

We have been putting up with a bad government and have suffered through a lot of things without complaining. Now it is our duty to make the needed changes. Here is the proof for everyone to see:

Part Two: Tyrannical (harsh/cruel) Acts of the British King

The King of Great Britain has gone a little crazy. He has refused to sign important laws that our leaders have written.

The King has also ignored the laws of our American government. He has created his own set of laws and now feels that he has a right to force us to give food and shelter to British soldiers, stop us from trading with the rest of the world. He has set up too many taxes for us to pay. He also wants to punish people without a fair trial and jury. The King has carried out several acts of war.

Through all of these unfair acts that have been placed upon us we have made a great effort to tell the King how we feel. We wanted to resolve this peacefully but it has only escalated. A King that does not rule fairly should not be able to rule. We have continued to warn our friends and family still living in England and still, it has done nothing.

Part Three: The Colonies (the new United States) Are Declared Free and Independent (of England)

We, as representatives of the United States of America want God to judge our acts. We declare today that Great Britain will no longer be a ruler over us and that we should be free and independent states. We will have the power to build our own government and all the powers that come with government. We will put our trust in God and will be united in this Declaration of Independence.