

# Teenage Declaration of Independence

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



The Declaration of Independence was written to declare the United States' independence from Britain and the reasoning for this declaration.

In this activity, you imagine you are a teenager that is sick of being controlled unfairly by an adult (parent, teacher, boss, coach, etc.). Imagine you have reached the breaking point and decide you are going to declare your own independence from this adult control by writing/typing your own fictitious declaration.



You are to read the Declaration of Independence on pages 74-77 and consult its surrounding explanations to aid you in creating your own declaration of independence. Your declaration should follow the same 6-part format used by Thomas Jefferson, the author, in the Declaration of Independence.

## Teenage Declaration of Independence format:

### Part 1: Preamble

- Date
- Who you are
- Reason for writing

### Part 2: Declaration of Natural Rights

- Explain why you deserve better treatment
- Indicate your rights
- Specify your reasoning for the declaration

### Part 3: List of Grievances (Complaints)

- Complain about specific unfair treatment you receive as a teenage from controlling adults
- List many unfair ways you have been treated

### Part 4: Petition for Redress (Reconciliation Attempts)

- Identify who you have complained to in the past about the unfair treatment
- Explain some ways you have tried (unsuccessfully) to resolve your differences with the controlling adults in the past

### Part 5: Resolution of Independence (Declare Freedom)

- Once again, state who you are
- Boldly proclaim your independence from further adult control
- Pledge your commitment to this declaration

### Part 6: Signature

- In dark pen---legibly sign your name

**Pre-Writing:** Use the space on the back of this page to outline/brainstorm some thoughts for each part of your declaration. (Required)

## Writing Rubric

1. Ideas (15 points)
  - Details—Examples
  - Clear Explanations
  - Developed Reasoning
2. Organization (10 points)
  - Complete six separate parts
  - Follow instructions
  - Pre-writing outline completed on back
3. Voice (5 points)
  - Formal explanation of grievance
4. Conventions (5 points)
  - Spelling (use spell check)
  - Grammar (use grammar check)
5. Presentation (5 points)
  - Typed or written in cursive (font)
  - Signed at bottom of page
  - Staple this page to the paper

Total Points \_\_\_\_\_  
40

Here is an example **Student Declaration of Independence** (**YOU MAY NOT COPY THIS!!**)

**Preamble**

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for students to cut ties with their parents and teachers and to become independent, they must explain why they deserve to be independent to the rest of the world. This requires us, as students, to write our own Declaration of Independence for the rest of the world to see and understand why we should be and will be independent and equal to the station of our parents and teachers.

**Declaration of Student Rights**

We hold these truths to be obvious, that all students are created equal and are given by their Creator the rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of whatever makes them happy. To obtain these rights, parents and teachers should enable students to do as they wish. However, when parents and teachers begin a long train of mistreatment against students that shows they only want to control every aspect of their lives, it is the duty and right of students to get rid of the control their parents and teachers have over them and establish their independence.

**List of Grievances**

Until now, students have been very patient with parents and teachers, but with such a long history of mistreatment and unfairness by the parents and teachers toward students, it is now time that the rest of the world find out what has been going on.

- They have given us too much homework with little class time to complete it
- They have given us repeated detentions without good cause
- They have grounded us for reasons that were unfair and not our fault

**Statements of Prior Attempts to Redress Grievances**

Even after all of this mistreatment, we have explained how we felt to both our parents and teachers. However, our complaints have fallen on deaf ears, and we have been ignored. We have even appealed to our school administrators, grandparents and even our friends at other schools, but our appeals have been ignored and we must now announce that we are separating ourselves from our homes and our schools to become independent.

**Resolution of Independence**

We, therefore, the representatives of the student body at Oak Mountain Middle School in Birmingham, Alabama, present these facts to the rest of the country and the world. In the name and by the permission of all of our fellow students, we solemnly write and declare that the students at Oak Mountain Middle School out to be free and independent, and we give ourselves the same powers as any adult has who is also free and independent. For the support of our declaration, we pledge our lives, honor and all that we have!