

# The declaration of independence



The Declaration of Independence is undoubtedly one of the most important documents in the history of the United States.

Drafted by Thomas Jefferson the Declaration of Independence was America's notice to the world of its new found freedom. It is a summary of "self-evident truths" and a list of grievances against King George that set America apart from England forever. When Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence, he foresaw the coming of great changes within the times that he lived in. The way that Jefferson structured the Declaration of Independence made the article extremely influential. In the introduction of the document Jefferson explains to the rest of the world the reasons why the colonies wanted to revolt against the rule of England. The body of the document goes over the list of grievances and the reasons for their revolt against England. The conclusion simply consists of the signers and the pledges of The Declaration of Independence.

resume writing service kansas city In creating a smooth and logical transition from one paragraph to another, Jefferson uses a technique of first presenting the issue, why the people of American colonies should separate from Great Britain. He then states his thesis that, because of the tyranny of the King, the colonies must replace his rule with a new form of government. He then gave support toward the reason for his thesis by giving twenty-eight examples of all the wrongs tolerated by the Colonies. After the evidence, Jefferson refutes, contrary to the arguments by explaining how the Colonists humbly requested for the King to give them what they needed, to make up for what he had done to them, but the King mercilessly continued his exploitations. Finally, in his concluding paragraph, Jefferson restates his thesis and

strengthens it by speaking for the representatives of the United States and outspokenly broke up all political connections between England and America.

In the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson uses the phrase "self-evident" as a necessary modifier for the truths of equality he describes, that all men are created equal and that they are endowed with certain unalienable rights. The inclusion of this phrase has a profound effect on Jefferson's argument for freedom because of what it represents. By using repetition of key points, this is a great form of writing to get a point out by the use of repetition. Jefferson's first example of repetition is, "He has refused; He has forbidden; He has refused; He has forbidden." In this example he represents the colonies, and the repetition is explaining the struggle that the colony is going through. The repetition used in this gets out the point of the ongoing struggle of each individual thing that happens. Through the repetition the author tries to embellish the point.

Another thing that repetition does is make a point more severe. The use of taking something to an extent is shown here: "We have warned them; We have reminded them; We have appealed; we have conjured them." There are twenty-seven direct statements of propaganda in the Declaration of Independence, all meant to portray King George as a sinful wicked ruler who intended to establish an absolute tyranny over each colony. Each grievance was a harsh indictment of George. Jefferson used negative phrases like, "He has forbidden . . .

. he has plundered . . . he has refused . . .

he has constrained . . . in the Declaration of Independence.

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In contrast, the colonists were pictured as patient, submissive, long-suffering citizens. Jefferson used phrases like, "We have petitioned . . .

. . . we have warned. . . we have reminded .

. . . we have appealed . . . to depict the colonists as the victims in this situation. They are trying to say the repeated times that they have been treated unfair and the extent of their injuries. The colonies have been controlled so many times and the repetition just could not sum up the story of the colonies any better.

Through repetition the colonies got their point and were able to clearly express their injuries and their grievances. By using such words I believe Jefferson succeeded in making the Declaration of Independence seem reasonable. Another device that Jefferson used was parallel structure. Parallel structure is used in the same way that repetition is used in that though the use of the same words or form a point is exaggerated.

The expression of the same words is used in this example: "He has called?"; "He has dissolved?"; "He has refused?". In this example it is used to give a deeper meaning in the repeated times that the same negative things have happened to the colonies. Another thing is that the repeated use gives a better understanding for the point that the author is trying to get off by showing what one of Jefferson's main points was. This is an example of the parts of speech parallel structure: "For cutting?"; "For imposing?"; "For depriving?"; "For transporting?"; "For abolishing?". In the example Jefferson shows that the colonies have suffered through many hard times. He makes the example seem longer and this tends to make the suffering seem that

much longer and that much harsher. With the use of parallel structure an author can greater define the suffering or the extent of an event which happened.

Jefferson had the idea that everyone should have their ??? natural rights???. He said that the government had one major purpose and that was that it should be able to control the natural rights of its citizens. Between Jefferson and Locke they both agreed that it was a citizens right to be able to give its honor and respect to its leader in order to receive protection from the country. Between the three different pieces of persuasive writing biblical allusions, parallel structure, and repetition Jefferson gets his points of very well. He is able to embellish on some topics and take things to an exaggerated extent with the use of his writing. By using all of these techniques he was able to put together a very persuasive piece of writing that appears to be very reasonable and justified. To this day the Declaration remains relevant, yet no longer needed in everyday life, in sort, put to the wayside.

The most historical aspect of the constitution, still in use today “ 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.”