



*Honoring the Spirit of America*

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## ***“Declaration of Independence in Students’ Words”***

***Subject Area:***

Social Studies

***Subject Area/Grade Level Taught:***

US History (11<sup>th</sup> grade), American Government/Civics (12<sup>th</sup> grade)

***Quality Plus Teaching Strategies Used:***

Literacy

***Concept/ Topic to Teach:***

Declaration of Independence

***Georgia Standards Addressed:***

SSUSH4, SSCG2

For teachers outside the state of Georgia, check your local or state curriculum to see what requirements this lesson plan satisfies.

***General Goal(s):***

-Gain a better understanding of the Declaration of Independence (DOI)

***Specific Objectives:***

1. Understand the importance of the DOI to American history
2. Explain in student’s own words the DOI
3. Allow students to give their opinion of the DOI and what it means to Americans

***Required Materials:***

A history of the DOI from the following websites:

[http://www.archives.gov/exhibit\\_hall/charters\\_of\\_freedom/declaration/declaration.html](http://www.archives.gov/exhibit_hall/charters_of_freedom/declaration/declaration.html)

<http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/>

<http://www.thedeclarationofindependence.org/>

A copy of the DOI

Paper  
Pens  
Dictionary

***Step-By-Step Procedures:***

1. Have students write down what they know about the DOI
2. Allow student to discuss their responses in groups
3. Have students read the websites above and find out if the written information is accurate
4. Have students read the first paragraph and a half of the DOI out loud.
5. Have students write a journal entry about the rights and view points expressed in the first paragraph and a half.
6. Have students rewrite in their own words the first paragraph and a half. Remind students to keep the original ideas and spirit behind the DOI.

***Adaptations for Students with Special Needs:***

***Extensions for Gifted Students:***

Have student read the rest of the DOI and rewrite it into their own words

***Possible Connections to Other Subjects:***

Language Arts