

Four Principles of Government in the Declaration of Independence

Principle 1

All people are created equal.

Principle 2

*All people have basic rights that
cannot be taken away.*

Principle 3

*The government gets its power to make decisions
and to protect rights from the people.*

Principle 4

*When the government does not protect the rights
of the people, the people have the right to change or
remove the government.*

Writing an Essay About the Principles in the Declaration of Independence

Write an essay discussing how well the United States is upholding the principles of the Declaration of Independence. Use your Reading Notes, Student Handout A, your personal experiences and opinions, and your knowledge of current events for information to write your essay.

Your essay must use correct grammar and spelling and include these things:

- A brief introduction in which you clearly state your thesis. Your thesis will answer this question: *How well is the United States upholding the principles of the Declaration of Independence?*
- Two paragraphs defending your thesis. In each paragraph, give and explain a piece of evidence in support of your thesis. This evidence can be drawn from current events or your own life experience. Clearly connect each piece of evidence to one of the four principles of government found in the Declaration of Independence.
- A short conclusion in which you summarize your thesis and the evidence you used to support it.
- At least one excerpt from the Declaration of Independence.

Also make sure to do the following:

- Express your ideas clearly, so the reader will understand them.
- Verify that each detail in your essay supports your thesis.