

Declaration of Independence Writing Assessment

In Social Studies you have been learning about the Declaration of Independence.

You will write a descriptive essay explaining: *What are the ways the United States upholds the principles of the Declaration of Independence?*

Use text, personal opinion, current events, factual evidence, or personal experience to help and support your essay!

Rubric for Social Studies and Literacy

Scoring Criteria	Advanced 4	Proficient 3	Basic 2	Below Basic 1
Literacy: Introduces Claim or Topic	The content is uniquely and clearly introduced in the claim or topic sentence.	The content is sufficiently introduced in the claim or topic sentence.	The content is minimally introduced in the claim or topic sentence.	The content is not introduced in the claim or topic sentence and/or claim or topic sentence is missing.
Literacy: Supports Claim or Topic with Evidence	A variety of relevant evidence from text, personal experience, and/or historical or current events richly enhance the claim or topic sentence.	Relevant evidence from text, personal experience, and/or historical or current events are used to support the claim or topic sentence.	Some evidence from text, personal experience, and/or historical or current events are present, but are not concrete or relevant enough to fully support the claim or topic sentence.	Evidence from text, personal experience, and/or historical or current events is missing or does not support the claim or topic sentence.
Content	All commentary convincingly supports and develops the claim or topic sentence.	Most commentary supports and develops the claim or topic sentence.	Minimal commentary supports and develops the claim or topic sentence.	Commentary is missing or does not support or develop the claim or topic sentence.
Organization	The writer skillfully structures the essay with all the required elements of an engaging introduction, well-developed body paragraphs, and a powerful conclusion.	The writer effectively structures the essay with most of the required elements of an introductory paragraph, developed body paragraphs, and a thoughtful conclusion.	The writer attempts to structure the essay with most of the required elements of an introductory paragraph, developed body paragraphs, and a thoughtful conclusion.	The writer does not structure the essay because several of the required elements of an introductory paragraph, developed body paragraphs, and/or a thoughtful conclusion are missing.

Checklist for Writing:

- **Pre-write (s):**
 - Blocking Out
 - Informal Outline
- **Introductory Paragraph**
 - Lead
 - Background
 - Thesis Statement answering the question: *What are the ways the United States upholds the principles of the Declaration of Independence?*

☆ **Body Paragraph 1-Key/Star Idea describing one way the United States upholds the principles of the Declaration of Independence?**

- Evidence and Commentary
- Evidence and Commentary

☆ **Body Paragraph 2- Key/Star Idea describing a second way the United States upholds the principles of the Declaration of Independence?**

- Evidence and Commentary
- Evidence and Commentary

☆ **Body Paragraph 3- Key/Star Idea describing a third way the United States upholds the principles of the Declaration of Independence?**

- Evidence and Commentary
- Evidence and Commentary

- **Conclusion**
 - Restate Thesis
 - Summarize Star Ideas
 - Leave the reader thinking

*** You must use at least one excerpt from the Declaration of Independence and 3 of the 4 principles expressed in the Declaration of Independence

*** Express your ideas clearly, so the reader will understand them.