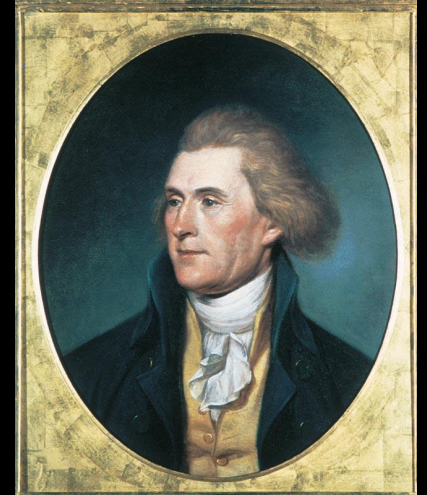


# Declaration of Independence

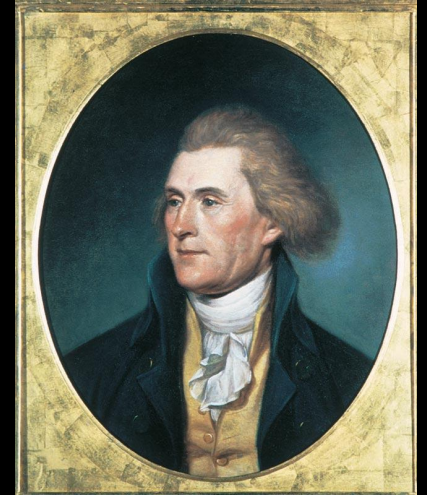
- Written by Thomas Jefferson (Born 1743)
- He was very well educated. Attended the College of William & Mary
- Served in the Virginia House of Congress
- Eloquent correspondent, but not good public speaker
- Known as the “silent member” of Congress
- Was unanimously chosen by the Committee of Five to prepare a draft of the Declaration alone.
- Believed in the social contract - or that the governed had the right to overthrow their government if it was found to be corrupt.



# Declaration of Independence

The Preamble (introductory statement) consists of four major parts:

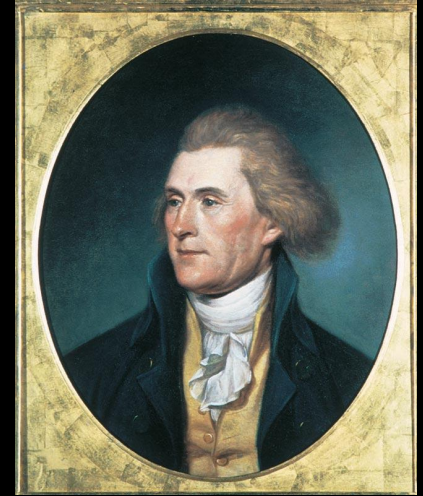
- Statement of human rights
- List of 27 charges against the King and Parliament
- Statement of separation
- Signatures



# Declaration of Independence

After you read the first two paragraphs of Jefferson's preamble, respond to the following questions:

1. What are the “unalienable rights” we have as human beings, according to Thomas Jefferson? Do you think American citizens have those rights today?
2. What does Jefferson mean by “mankind are more disposed to suffer while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed”? Do you agree with this statement? Explain.



# Declaration of Independence

Instead of reading the entire list of grievances individually, each group is going to take five or six and **paraphrase** them for the class.

3. Write down your paraphrases for each of your assigned grievances. Be prepared to share!

**Note:** If you don't know any words, google it!

4. Of your assigned grievances, which do you think is the most convincing? Why?

Group 1: #1-6

Group 2: #7-12

Group 3: #13-17

Group 4: #18-22

Group 5: #23-27