

Matrix of Excerpts from the Declaration of Independence

Directions: When you and your partner receive a card from **Card Sort 4.4A**, read the card and find the excerpt to which it best corresponds on the matrix below. Show your answer to your teacher. If correct, copy the “What It Means” card into the appropriate box and get another card from your teacher. If not correct, try again. Continue until you have filled in all eight boxes.

Excerpt from Declaration of Independence

What the Excerpt Means

Excerpt 1: “When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume, among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature’s God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.”

Excerpt 2: “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.”

Excerpt 3: “[T]o secure these [basic] rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. . . .”

Excerpt 4: “[T]hat whenever any form of government becomes destructive [in protecting rights and responding to the people], it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute a new government. . . .”

Excerpt from Declaration of Independence

What the Excerpt Means

<p>Excerpt 5: “The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having, in direct object, the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these States.”</p>	
<p>Excerpt 6: “To prove [that England has interfered with colonial rights], let the facts be submitted to a candid world: He has refused to assent to laws the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.”</p>	
<p>Excerpt 7: “In every state of these oppressions, we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms; our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.”</p>	
<p>Excerpt 8: “We, therefore . . . solemnly publish and declare, that these united colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states. . . .”</p>	