***Directions:*** The Declaration of Independence includes a list of grievances the colonists had with the King of Great Britain and Parliament as a justification for independence. The grievances refer to a series of events since the French and Indian War which the colonists deemed were tyrannical acts and destructive of their rights. You are to explore these different grievances listed in the Declaration of Independence, and explore the separate laws and actions by the British that led to these respective grievances. Construct a three paragraph paper (typed & double spaced ) explaining a grievance listed in the Declaration of Independence in terms of its relationship to Enlightenment ideas of natural rights and the social contract. Be sure to include: 1. The Grievance 2. The source of the grievance (i.e. cutting off trade with other world nations = Boston Port Act) 3. How the grievance listed corresponds to an Enlightenment idea, and which Enlightenment philosopher's idea it was. Utilize your course text and other outside sources for information.  Your paper should include an intro, body, and closing paragraph, and should also include a works cited page listing the different sources utilized for your paper (you'll need 2 or more sources).

See : Long Train of Abuses and Usurpations Worksheet for Acts/Taxes imposed by British

The Declaration of Independence can be found in HOLT: pages 24-27.

**Rubric for Writing Assignment**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **30-20** | **19-10** | **9-0** |
| **Clear Interpretation of Grievance:** | Great job at providing a concise explanation of stated grievance in the Declaration of Independence. | Adequate job at providing a concise explanation of stated grievance in the Declaration of Independence. | Poor job at providing a concise explanation of stated grievance in the Declaration of Independence. |
| **Clear Explanation of the Source of the Grievance:** | Great job at explaining the source that caused the colonial grievance against the King of England. | Adequate job at explaining the source that caused the colonial grievance against the King of England. | Poor job at explaining the source that caused the colonial grievance against the King of England. |
| **Clear Explanation of Enlightenment Philosopher the idea(s) adheres to:** | Great job at explaining how the shown grievance adheres to enlightenment philosophers thoughts, and which idea it complies with. | Adequate job at explaining how the shown grievance adheres to enlightenment philosophers thoughts, and which idea it complies with. | Poor job at showing a relationship between the stated grievance and an enlightenment belief and corresponding philosophers(s). |
| **Format:** | Paper is constructed in proper paragraph structuring, correct spelling, and provides a works cited page with utilized sources. | Paper is missing in the areas of paragraph structuring, correct spelling, or providing a works cited. | Paper significantly lacks needed areas of paragraph structure, spelling, or works cited. |

**Example Provided Below:**

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Period:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Assignment: Grievance Paper

In 1776, the Second Continental Congress appointed Thomas Jefferson to draft the Declaration of Independence. This came after fourteen years of forced British subjugation on the colonies, whereby the crown levied a series of laws and taxes to both control the colonists, and pay for the costs of the French and Indian war that was fought in North America. In drafting the declaration, Jefferson used a series of beliefs that came out of enlightenment though. Several of these beliefs can be traced to the Declaration, and to the respective grievances listed within.

One key grievance listed in the Declaration of Independence is the King’s action of cutting of colonial trade with all parts of the world. In his book, Common Sense, Thomas Paine describes how the colonies are perhaps the wealthiest area in the world in relation to natural resources. In fact, during this time period most British naval vessels were constructed from timbers coming from North America. The Navigation Acts passed by the British parliament effectively cut off trade between the colonies and any other nation outside of Great Britain. This greatly angered colonial merchants who could greatly profit from an increase of trade. This cutting off of trade to the colonies also infringed on the colonists right to liberty. Specifically the liberty to establish trade in their best economic interests. This enlightenment ideal was set forth by John Locke under his natural rights.

In conclusion, the Declaration of Independence provided a sound basis for the colonies seeking independence from the British crown. Thomas Jefferson uses a series of enlightenment though first proposed by philosophers such as Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, Jean Jacque Rousseau, Montesquieu, and Thomas Paine to explain why colonists should be granted better treatment under a new form of government. This framework paved the way for future American documents, and allow us the opportunity to live in a free and democratic nation.

Works Cited:

Course Textbook pages 15-17 & 24-27

http://www.usconstitution.net/intol.html