

Graphic Organizer Title: *Examination of the Declaration of Independence and American Grievances Against British Rule*

Section 1: Overview of the Declaration of Independence

Section	Key Ideas	Explanation/Reflection
Purpose	All men are created equal, unalienable rights, government by consent, right to revolt.	
Philosophical Influence	John Locke's natural rights (life, liberty, and property), social contract.	

Section 2: Grievances Against British Rule

Grievance	Summary of the Issue	Why It Was Important to the Colonists
Taxation Without Representation	Britain imposed taxes without colonial input.	
Quartering British Troops	Colonists were forced to house British soldiers without consent.	
Dissolving Colonial Legislatures	Britain dissolved local governments that opposed its policies.	
Restricting Trade	Britain cut off trade with other nations.	
Denial of Jury Trials	Colonists were denied the right to fair trials by jury.	

Section 3: Connection to Founding Principles

Grievance	How It Influenced the American Government
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Taxation Without Representation	
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Quartering British Troops	
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Dissolving Colonial Legislatures	
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Restricting Trade	
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Denial of Jury Trials	
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Student Reflection Prompts

1. How did the grievances reflect the colonists' desire for self-government?

2. In what ways do these grievances help explain the colonists' decision to declare independence?

3. How did the specific grievances shape the structure of the new American government?