DIRECTIONS: The Declaration of Independence, formally approved July 4, 1776, can be broken into four sections: the preamble, declaration of rights, list of complaints and resolution of independence. In the left – hand column is the Declaration. In the right, summarize in your own words, except for the list of complaints. For that section, list the acts, events and facts that the authors are referring to.

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| **Preamble** | |
| 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. |  |
| **Declaration of Rights** | |
| 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; that, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness.  Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former systems of government. 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. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world. |  |
| **List of Complaints** (excerpted) | |
| …He has dissolved representative houses repeatedly, for opposing, with manly firmness, his invasions on the rights of the people.  He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution and unacknowledged by our laws, giving his assent to their acts of pretended legislation:  For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us;  For protecting them, by a mock trial, from punishment for any murders which they should commit on the inhabitants of these states;  For cutting off our trade with all parts of the world;  For imposing taxes on us without our consent;  For depriving us, in many cases, of the benefits of trial by jury;  For transporting us beyond seas, to be tried for pretended offenses;  For abolishing the free system of English laws in a neighboring province, establishing therein an arbitrary government, and enlarging its boundaries, so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these colonies;  For taking away our charters, abolishing our most valuable laws, and altering fundamentally the forms of our governments;  For suspending our own legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.  He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burned our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.  He is at this time transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation, and tyranny already begun with circumstances of cruelty and perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the head of a civilized nation.  He has constrained our fellow-citizens, taken captive on the high seas, to bear arms against their country, to become the executioners of their friends and brethren, or to fall themselves by their hands.  He has excited domestic insurrection among us, and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers the merciless Indian savages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes, and conditions.  In every stage 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. |  |
| Resolution of Independence | |
| We, therefore, the representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name and by the authority of the good people of these colonies solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, ***FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATES*;** that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown and that all political connection between them and the state of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved; and that, as free and independent states, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and do all other acts and things which independent states may of right do. And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor. |  |

Break-Up texts:

Come up with one break-up text message for King George. Your text should between 100-150 words. Be sure to include specific details, facts in your text and be creative! I will type up a list of your texts.

**OR**

Declaration of Independence from Something:

Come up with a declaration of Independence from something in your life in the style of the original Declaration of Independence. Be sure to include specific grievances, facts, and be creative!