**The Declaration of Independence**

Read the Declaration of Independence and write answers to the following questions on your own paper.

1. What is the purpose of the Declaration of Independence as stated in the introductory paragraph?
2. What groups did the Continental Congress hope to sway this document?
3. According to Jefferson, who has the right to create a government? According to Jefferson, what is the purpose of a government? According to Jefferson, what should be done if a government fails to fulfill its purpose?
4. Using your answers in item 3, summarize in your own words Jefferson’s philosophy of government. (This philosophy is Jefferson’s major premise or assumption in the Declaration of Independence.)
5. Select any 3 grievances against King George III and the English government that Jefferson lists in the Declaration of Independence. Copy the grievance, and state for each one of a British law or action which may have prompted the complaint.
6. What legal means of protest did the colonists take to convince the British to change their ways?
7. How did the British respond to the complaints?
8. What conclusion did Jefferson then draw?
9. What sacrifices were the signers willing to make to their independence?