

## DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE (D of I) Cornell Notes Questions

Using a copy of the D of I, please answer each question in your Cornell Notes. Remember to write the question in the left column across from the answer in the “Notes” section.

1. The D of I is a petition/or complaint letter to King George III. In the first paragraph, what does Thomas Jefferson say is the purpose of the D of I? (Hint: The answer is NOT to declare independence!)
2. In the next section, Jefferson gives his **JUSTIFICATION** (reasons) why their petition should be taken seriously and calls them “self-evident (obvious) truths”. What are 3 of these “self-evident (obvious) truths--excluding “all men are created equal and endowed with unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness--?”
3. The body of the document lists **SPECIFIC COMPLAINTS** (“injuries and grievances”) experienced by the colonists. What are two complaints from each category?

Legislative Complaints (laws, elections, meetings, etc.):

Judicial Complaints (judges, courts, trials, etc.):

Military Complaints (armies, troops, weapons, etc.):

Economic Complaints (trade, taxes, immigration, etc.)

4. Following the list of grievances, what 4 verbs describe their **PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS** to resolve their problems peacefully with King George III?
5. In the final paragraph, the colonies abolish allegiance to, and all political ties with Great Britain. What 4 **DESIRED ACTION STEPS** do they claim they have the right to take as free and independent states?
6. What 3 things did the signers **PLEDGE** to prove that they intended to follow through with their claim to independence?
7. How many men were willing and able to add their **SIGNATURES** the D of I?
8. What are the seven sections of the D of I, in order? (HINT: Find the bolded words in each question.)