

Studying the Text of the Declaration

The Declaration can be divided into three sections:

- The opening two paragraphs: The portion we often pay the most attention to, where “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.”
- The list of grievances: By presenting these complaints in a formal document, the colonists aimed to show that their decision to separate from Britain was justified.
- The closing paragraph: The final paragraph marks a shift in sovereignty (rule) from King George III to the American people and also highlights key principles of civic virtue.