

# Writing an essay About the Principles in the Declaration of Independence

Write an essay discussing how well the U.S is upholding the principles of the Declaration of Independence. Use your knowledge of current events for information to write your essay. The four main principles of the Declaration are at the bottom of this sheet. Your job is to pick ONE of the four principles to write about.

- Your essay should include:
  - A brief introduction in which you clearly state your THESIS. Your thesis will answer this question: *How well is the United States upholding the chosen principle of the Declaration of Independence?*
  - One paragraph that defends your thesis. This paragraph should include
    - One current event that support your thesis
    - One excerpt from the Declaration to support your thesis
  - A short conclusion where you summarize your thesis and the evidence used to support it

## Four Main Principles of the Declaration of Independence

1. All people are created equal
2. All people have basic rights that cannot be taken away
3. The government gets its power to make decisions and protect rights from the people.
4. When the government does not protect the rights of the people, the people have the right to alter or abolish the government.