Modern Language Declaration of Independence Activity

**Excerpt 1:** When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another . . . a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.  
*Locate the modern language equivalent*

**Excerpt 2:** 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.  
*Locate the modern language equivalent*

**Excerpt 3:** That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.  
*Locate the modern language equivalent*

**Excerpt 4:** 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.  
*Locate the modern language equivalent*

**Excerpt 5:** 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.  
*Locate the modern language equivalent*

**Excerpt 6:** 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.  
*Locate the modern language equivalent*

**Excerpt 7:** 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.  
*Locate the modern language equivalent*
We now consider ourselves to be an independent country. We have no more loyalty to Great Britain and they no longer have the power to rule over us.

When a government takes away the rights of citizens, the citizens have the right to change the government or create a new one.

All people have some basic rights that cannot be taken away. Liberty is one of those rights.

The current ruler of Great Britain has repeatedly interfered with colonists’ rights, sometimes even taking them away. He has ruled unfairly over the American colonies.

Governments are formed to make sure people’s rights are protected. The power to govern comes from the people.

Every time we colonists felt we were being treated unfairly, we wrote the king. He answered by treating us more unfairly. A ruler who abuses his power should not rule us.

When people break away from a country to form a new nation, they should explain why they are doing it.