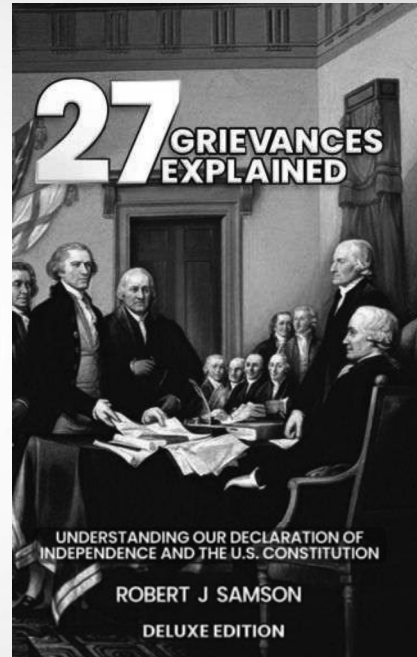


Teaching the Declaration of Independence

<http://www.Lostpine.com/>



History should be about “Cause and Effect”

Events and their Dates become meaningless right after the test is taken

Understanding the effects of World Events on Humanity must come first

Common Sense must prevail to understand the damage of “Effects”

Thomas Paine’s book, “Common Sense” changed history

“The Strength of society lies in the moral integrity of its citizens?~
Thomas Paine

Publication & Impact

- Published January 10, 1776 — just months before the Declaration of Independence, it was one of the most influential catalysts for American independence.
- Sold roughly 500,000 copies in its first year, in a colonial population of about 2.5 million. Proportionally, that's one of the best-selling American titles of all time.
- Paine published it anonymously at first — many people initially assumed it was written by John Adams or Benjamin Franklin.

Writing & Style

- Written in plain, accessible language rather than the formal, legalistic prose common at the time. Paine deliberately targeted everyday colonists, not just the educated elite.

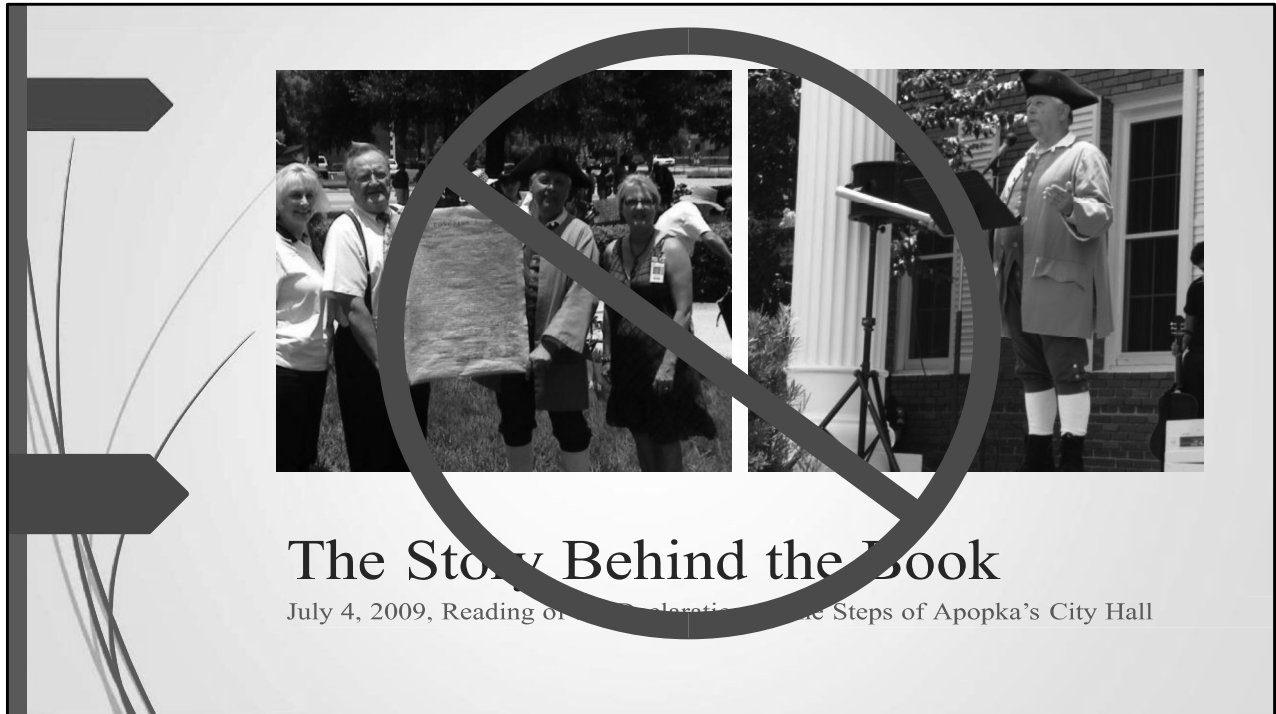
- It was a 47-page pamphlet, priced at just two shillings to make it affordable for working people.
- Paine used biblical references strategically to argue against monarchy, knowing Scripture carried enormous weight with the colonial audience.

Financial & Personal Sacrifice

- Paine donated his royalties to the Continental Army to buy supplies like mittens for soldiers — he made almost no money from it personally.
- Despite its enormous success, Paine died in relative poverty in 1809, largely forgotten and even scorned for his later controversial religious writings in *The Age of Reason*.

Historical Significance

- George Washington had it read aloud to his troops to boost morale.
- It didn't just argue for independence — it made the radical case for republican government and against hereditary monarchy as a concept, which was a bold stance for the time.
- It's often credited with shifting public opinion from seeking reconciliation with Britain to demanding full independence.



On July 4th, 2009, thousands of communities across the United States held "American Freedom Day" Tea Party rallies, organized as a second wave following the massive April 15 Tax Day protests. Based on the timing and location, the downtown Apopka gathering was very likely one of these events. Here's the broader context:

- The American Family Association (AFA) spearheaded the effort, aiming to sponsor over 4,000 community gatherings on Independence Day.
- The rallies were branded as TEA Parties — a dual reference to the Boston Tea Party of 1773 and the backronym "Taxed Enough Already."
- Protesters typically displayed tri-corner hats, Gadsden "Don't Tread on Me" flags, and other American Revolution imagery.
- The core message was opposition to government bailouts (TARP), the stimulus package, rising national debt, and what participants saw as wasteful federal spending under both the Bush and early Obama administrations.

- The movement was decentralized and grassroots — local organizers in cities and towns like Apopka would host their own events under the national umbrella.

It was 95 Degrees at High Noon on the steps of Apopka City Hall. With five layers of clothing on, I soon became soaked through. As I read the Declaration to the approximately 250 people at the event, no one paid attention because they did not understand it. The Declaration does not read like a self-explanatory document. It would be the memory of that day to haunt me for years until I finally understood how to explain the extraordinary document.

Focus on Living History

- Sharing my love of history with adults and children
 - Schools
 - Churches
 - Community Events
- Living History is about “Hands-on” teaching
- Learning how to share about both our country and the state of Florida



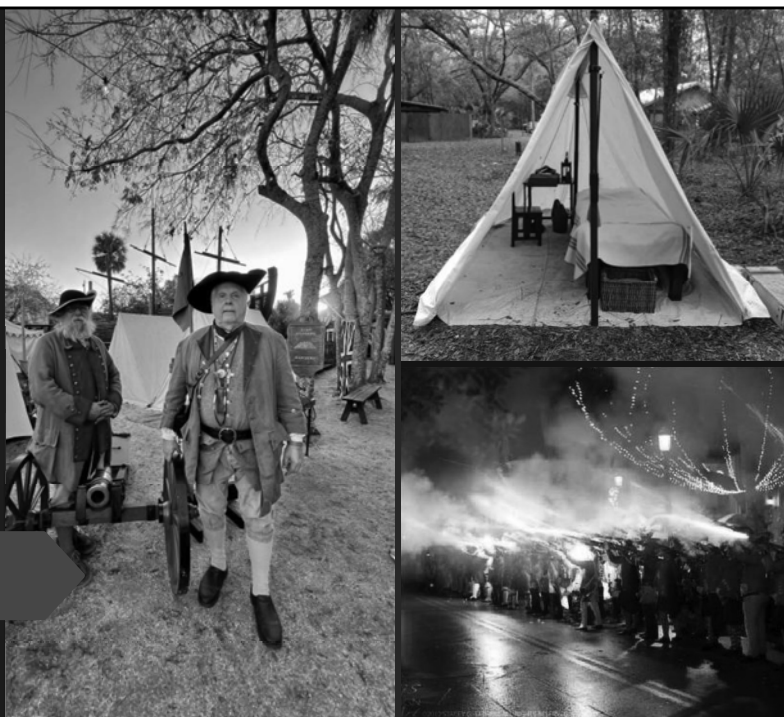
Large photo: Pinecastle Pioneer Days

Top Right Photo: Teague Middle School

Bottom Right Photo: Patriot Camp, Westview Baptist Church, Sanford, FL

Living History is all about letting people touch and feel history.

Board Member with HFM, Inc. Historic Florida Militia, Inc. – St. Augustine



The Historic Florida Militia, Inc., founded in 1983, is a St. Augustine nonprofit that serves as an umbrella organization for multiple living-history units. It preserves Florida's colonial and military past through reenactments, educational programs, and public events.

Origins and Founding (1983)

- HFM was founded in 1983 in St. Augustine, Florida.
- It began as a volunteer-driven effort to preserve and interpret Florida's military history across multiple eras.
- From the start, the organization emphasized authentic reenactment, period clothing, and historically accurate equipment.

Mission and Purpose

HFM's mission is to "present the past to the present for the future", focusing on the diverse cultures that shaped Florida from the 1500s to the 1800s. Key goals include:

- Providing true historical accounts of St. Augustine and La Florida.
- Highlighting the diversity of culture, race, and ethnicity in Florida's colonial past.
- Using living-history encampments, demonstrations, and educational programs to teach the public.

- Supporting member reenactment units with resources, insurance, and period-appropriate equipment.

Growth Into an Umbrella Organization

Over time, HFM evolved into a 501(c)(3) umbrella organization that supports multiple reenactment groups, each representing a distinct historical period. These include:

- Men of Menéndez — 16th-century Spanish
- Drake’s Men — 16th-century English
- Searle’s Buccaneers — 17th-century British
- St. Augustine Garrison — 18th-century Spanish
- East Florida Rangers — 18th-century British Loyalists Each unit maintains its own historical focus while benefiting from HFM’s shared infrastructure.

Public Events and Educational Role

HFM is best known for staging some of St. Augustine’s most iconic historical events, including:

- Drake’s Raid
- Searle’s Raid
- Colonial Night Watch
- Changing of the Guard
- Florida Joins the USA (1821) commemorations

These events are designed to bring history to life for residents, students, and tourists.

HFM also provides:

- School programs
- Workshops on weapons, tactics, and daily life
- Lectures and demonstrations for civic groups and museums

Role in St. Augustine’s Historical Landscape

HFM is recognized as part of the region’s network of historical societies and historic sites, contributing to the city’s identity as the oldest continuously occupied European settlement in the U.S. Its address and contact information appear in museum and historical-society directories, confirming its established presence in the heritage community.

What Makes HFM Historically Significant

- 1.Longevity — Over 40 years of continuous operation.
- 2.Breadth of Interpretation — Covers Spanish, British, and American periods.
- 3.Community Impact — Major contributor to St. Augustine’s heritage tourism.
- 4.Educational Value — Provides hands-on, immersive history for schools and visitors.
- 5.Authenticity — Emphasis on accurate clothing, equipment, and historical context.

My Conclusion:

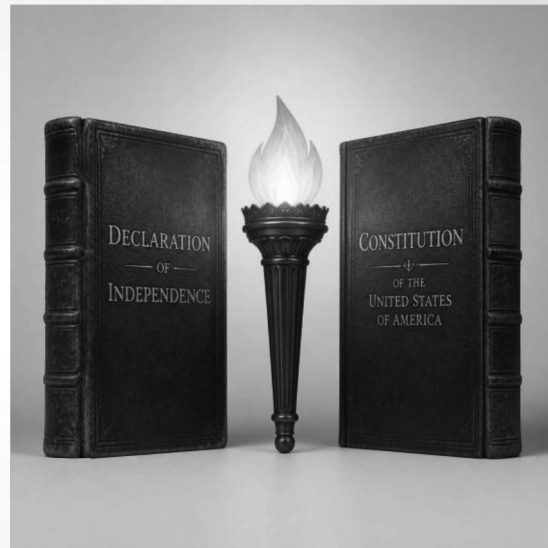
“One declared our freedom.

The other defends it.

The Declaration and the
Constitution —

Bookends of American
Liberty.”

Robert J Samson



The idea of liberty held in place by our two bookends, the Declaration and the Constitution, is a personal quote, drawn from my experiences of living history and interacting with people at events.

Quote: “One declared out freedom. The other defends it. The Declaration and the Constitution – Bookends of American Liberty.” Robert J Samson

Book Begins with a Brief History of Personal Rights

- ❑ Magna Carta – King John of England - 1215
- ❑ The Great Law of Peace – 1400's
- ❑ The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America - July 1776
- ❑ The Constitution of the United States of America – September 1787



These are the topics covered in the Introductory Chapter of the book.

The Magna Carta was the first agreement between a ruler and his subjects that they had rights and that the ruler would also abide by rules.

The Great Law of Peace (the Hiawatha Wampum) was an Iroquois Constitution with points that influenced Benjamin Franklin in drafting our own Constitution.

The Book Style Highlights “Causes and Effects”

- What was the actual Grievance?
- Historical actions that caused our forefathers to consider them so egregious that they were willing to risk their lives to effect a change the circumstances
- The U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights responses
 - Listed by Article and Section with additional commentary

The book explains “What was the actual Grievance?”

Historical actions that caused our forefathers to consider them so egregious that they were willing to risk their lives to effect a change in the circumstances.

The U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights responses are listed by Article and Section, with additional commentary.

The original text of the Declaration.

The text of the U.S. Constitution is also included in the Deluxe Hardcover version.

What were the 27 Grievances About



- Denial of Self-Governance and Legislative Rights
- Judicial and Legal Abuses
- Military Oppression
- Economic Exploitation
- Violation of Colonial Rights and Liberties

The Question is:

Have these been fixed, or are they still happening today?

1. Denial of Self-Governance and Legislative Rights

- Refusal to approve laws necessary for the public good.
- Preventing colonial governors from passing urgent laws.
- Refusing to allow laws unless colonists gave up representation.
- Dissolving colonial legislatures and failing to establish new ones.
- Forcing legislative bodies to meet in inconvenient locations.
- Suspending colonial legislatures and declaring British authority over all colonial matters.

2. Judicial and Legal Abuses

- Making judges dependent on the King for their jobs and pay.
- Abolishing colonial courts or interfering with their operation.
- Denying trial by jury.
- Transporting colonists overseas for trial on alleged offenses.
- Protecting British officials from punishment for crimes committed against colonists.

3. Military Oppression

- Keeping standing armies in the colonies during peacetime without consent.
- Quartering troops among the colonists.

- Using the military to enforce laws and intimidate colonists.
 - Making the military superior to civil authorities.
4. Economic Exploitation
- Imposing taxes without colonial consent (“taxation without representation”).
 - Cutting off colonial trade with other parts of the world.
 - Restricting immigration and raising property taxes.
 - Erecting new offices and sending officials to harass colonists and consume resources.
5. Violation of Colonial Rights and Liberties
- Denying colonists the right to self-government.
 - Arbitrarily changing colonial charters and governments.
 - Waging war against the colonies (plundering seas, burning towns, destroying lives).
 - Inciting domestic insurrections and encouraging attacks by Native Americans.
6. Failure to Protect and Provide Justice
- Abdicating government and declaring the colonies out of his protection.
 - Failing to address colonial petitions for redress.

Just One Example:

One of My Favorites:
Grievance 2

"He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them."

This passage describes a key grievance of the American colonists against British rule: the King's interference with colonial self-governance.

Sample Grievance 2

"He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them."

This passage describes a key grievance of the American colonists against British rule: the King's interference with colonial self-governance.



Context

The King's appointed governors in the colonies often refused to approve laws that colonists believed were essential for their well-being. A clear example occurred in 1770, when the Massachusetts Assembly passed a law taxing government officials. However, the King ordered the governor to reject it. The colonists saw this action as a violation of the colonial charter and a blatant disregard for their local authority.

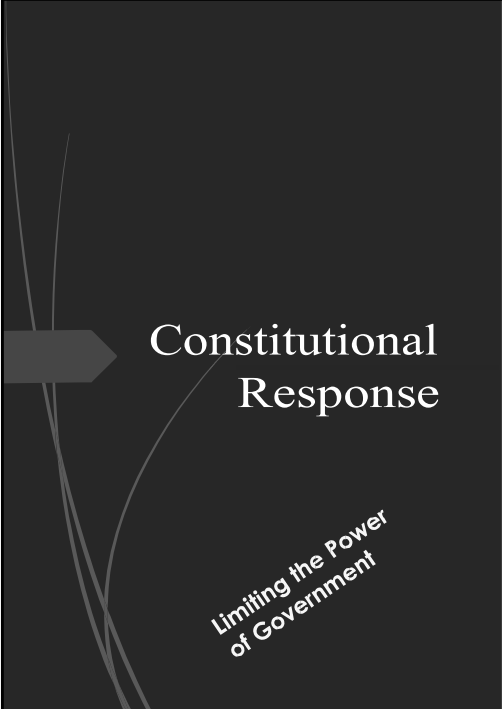
The ideas of John Locke, an English philosopher, profoundly shaped these events. His social contract theory was particularly influential in the colonies.

Locke's unique perspective, differing from that of some other philosophers, was that humanity's natural state is one of freedom. He argued that people enter into a social contract specifically to safeguard this freedom. Crucially, Locke also contended that "neglect" was a valid reason to dissolve a government if it failed to uphold its responsibilities within that contract. This powerful concept offered a philosophical basis for the colonists' increasing dissatisfaction with British rule.

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Constitutional Response

Limiting the Power of Government

The Constitution's articles and the subsequent Amendments specify the responsibilities and powers of our government. They are listed in Article I, Sec. 8; Articles 2-5; Amendments 8, 16, 19, 20, 23, and 26. These powers are derived from one of the following categories:

1. Defense, war prosecution, peace, foreign relations, foreign commerce, and interstate commerce.
2. The protection of citizens' constitutional rights (e.g., the right to vote) and ensuring that slavery remains illegal.
3. Establishing federal courts inferior to the Supreme Court of the United States.
4. Copyright protection.
5. Coining (and printing) money.
6. Establishing post offices and post roads (a road designated for the transportation of postal mail).
7. Establishing a national set of universal weights and measures; and
8. Taxation is necessary to raise revenue to perform these essential functions.

Constitutional Response text from the Book

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Limited Governmental Powers

- The prior list is the only prerogative of the Federal Government
- The 10th Amendment to the Bill of Rights states that all prerogatives not explicitly granted to the Federal Government or expressly prohibited by the states are reserved to the states or the people (citizens). Our Constitution has prohibited the federal government from addressing any issues not explicitly outlined therein; its prerogatives are limited to those expressly outlined on the prior slide.

Learning goals involve answering questions like these:

1. Why would the King's neglect of colonial laws create instability?
2. How does the 10th Amendment protect state authority today?
3. Why did Locke's ideas influence the Founding Fathers so strongly?

Final commentary: The prior list is the only prerogative of the Federal Government

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Three sample questions taken from the Student Study Guide on Grievance Number 2

1. Why would the King's neglect of colonial laws create instability?
2. How does the 10th Amendment protect state authority today?
3. Why did Locke's ideas influence the Founding Fathers so strongly?



Additional Content

- A summary of the impact on the signers of the Declaration
- The original text of the Declaration
- The Deluxe Edition hardcover also contains a copy of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights
- Brief Bio on the Author [me]

Why this approach works

The Declaration's list of grievances can be hard to teach. This book and the supporting resources are designed to make the language, purpose, and structure accessible and teachable, without losing the document's meaning.

IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, A DECLARATION BY THE REPRESENTATIVES UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED

WHEN in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which Nature's God entitles them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the Causes which impel them to the Separation.

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, 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, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, dictates that Governments should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shewn, that the most effectual Way to amend a Government is by amending the Forms which they have accustomed. But when a long Train of abuses and Usurpations, which have assumed a Design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty, and it is their Inalienable Right, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security. Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such has been the Patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such has been the Patient Sufferance of these Colonies, that they have borne the Willing Tolerance of an absolute Tyranny over their States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to the Consideration of a candid and impartial World.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public Good.

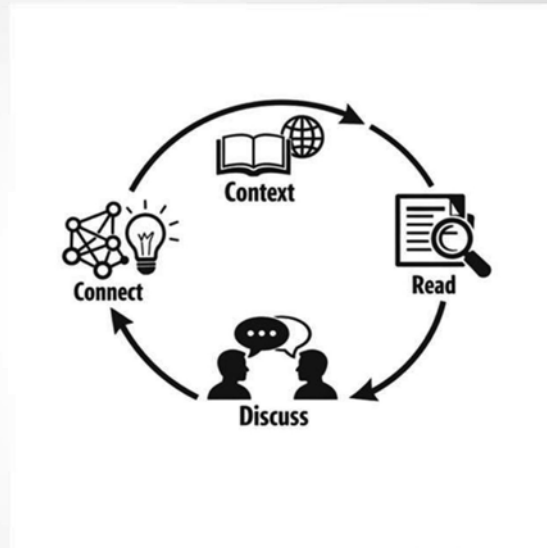
He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing Importance, unless suspended in their Operation, and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the Accommodation of large Districts of People, unless those People would assent to the Passage of a Bill of Rights, a Bill of Rights, a Bill of Rights, and formidable to Tyrants only.

He has called together legislative Bodies at Places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the Depository of the Public Records, in order to obstruct their Administration, and to render them more difficult to be conducted.

Free Teaching Materials

- Practical, discussion-ready guide for classrooms, homeschool families, and civic learning
- Downloaded from Lostpine.com are:
 - Clear explanations of each grievance in context
 - A framework that is easy to read and understand, which supports discussion and encourages understanding



A practical, discussion-ready guide for classrooms, homeschool families, and civic learning can be downloaded from Lostpine.com:

Clear explanations of each grievance in context

A framework that is easy to read and understand, which supports discussion and encourages understanding

Context first, then read the grievance, discuss it, and finally let the light turn on and connect to its significance.

The slide features a dark grey background with a white arrow pointing right at the top left. On the left side, there are several thin, curved white lines that resemble grass or reeds. The title 'Teaching Tools' is centered in a large, black, serif font.

Teaching Tools

- A Teacher's Guide with pacing objectives, prompts, and a step-by-step teaching flow
- Student worksheets for each of the 27 grievances
- Mapping of grievances by type of fix
- Teacher's notes on interesting facts
- Sample Exams for both younger and older children
- And More.....

The Lostpine website hosts other background and context materials on the American Revolution that are all downloadable in PDF or printable form at no cost

No cost Teacher's Guide with pacing objectives, prompts, and a step-by-step teaching flow

Student worksheets for each of the 27 grievances

Mapping of grievances by type of fix

Teacher's notes on interesting facts or expanded discussion

Sample Exams for both younger and older children

And More.....

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Available on Barnes and Noble online

- Deluxe hardcover
 - Contains both the Declaration and Constitution text
- Paperback
 - Contains the declaration text
- eBook
 - Content same as the paperback

<https://barnesandnoble.com/>

Teaching Materials

<https://lostpine.com/the-declaration-of-independence/>



Deluxe hardcover - Contains both the Declaration and Constitution text

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Saving Shipping Costs

- Books can be ordered online for delivery to the Barnes and Noble bookstore located at the Altamonte Springs Mall to avoid shipping costs. Just pick them up locally.



Books can be ordered online for delivery to the Barnes and Noble bookstore located at the Altamonte Springs Mall to avoid shipping costs. Just pick them up locally. The store is next to the abandoned Sears store, facing 436.



Robert J Samson

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