

### **Declaration of Independence – Excerpts**

**Directions: Carefully read the excerpts from the Declaration of Independence listed on the handout received in-class and find the excerpt below which matches. Then, write the simplified phrase in the ‘What the Excerpt Means’ box on the worksheet.**

- England had repeatedly interfered with the colonists’ rights. In doing so, it has unfairly ruled over the American colonies.
- Individuals have some basic rights that are obvious and that should not be taken away. Freedom, for example, is one of those rights
- We now consider ourselves to be an independent country
- Here is proof that England has interfered with colonial rights: the King has not allowed laws that help colonists the most.
- When one group of people is going to break away from a country to form its own nation, then they should explain why they are doing it
- When a government is taking away the rights of citizens and is not doing what the people want, then the citizens have the right to change or replace the government
- 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 power should not be able to rule us
- Governments are formed to make sure people’s rights are protected. Government power should come from the people