

NAME:

Date:

Per:

T.O.C. #

The Most Famous Break-Up Letter of All Time: Declaration of Independence

WARM-UP: Read the break-up letter below between these two people and then answer the questions that follow.

Dear K.G.

I'm not sure how to start this letter but I feel we need to talk. I've been thinking about us a lot lately. Things used to be so great - it was like we were M.F.E.O. I mean everyone said it was perfect. I thought we would be together forever but then things changed.

A relationship should be give-and-take, but recently you've just seemed to take. I mean, you do whatever you want and you don't ask me about my own feelings. I don't think you ever took into consideration my feelings when you make decisions for us.

Some of the things that I would like to point out specifically that have upset me in the past few months include: you always choosing which restaurants we go eat at, you always making me feel like I have to hang out with your family, and you making me feel like I'm always inferior to you.

I have tried to make this work, giving you too many opportunities to change your ways. And yes, it is true that you have fixed some of our problems, but overall, you just seem to focus on changing the little stuff. You haven't made any attempts to work on some big personality issues.

I've been thinking about this for a while and while I don't want to hurt you, I think it's time that we ended this. I mean it's just not going to work. I need some time by myself to see what it is like on my own. You were always making me do things YOU wanted to do and never let me have my own voice. I'm sorry things didn't work out but I gave you time to change and you didn't. YOU are the one to blame for this.

Sorry but "US" is over.

*Signed,
A.C.*

1. What is the current state of the relationship between “AC” and “KG”?
2. What complaints does “AC” have against “KG”?
3. What is going to happen between these two people in the future?

A Brief History of the Declaration of Independence...

In June of 1776, a group of wealthy colonists met in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to discuss the problems being caused by the tyrannical British government. This meeting of the **Second Continental Congress** was considered illegal under British law. Amongst its members were some of the most famous Americans in history including Ben Franklin, John Adams, John Hancock, and Thomas Jefferson.

The group debated whether or not to launch a full scale war against the British. While they could not agree on that issue, they did agree on drafting a “declaration of independence”. **Jefferson** was chosen as the man who would write the declaration. He spent two weeks working on the letter which would be addressed to British King George III. Jefferson was heavily inspired by the ideas of the Enlightenment. The **Enlightenment** was a philosophical movement that originated in Europe in the 1600s. The Enlightenment suggested that men were born with rights, regardless of where they lived or what their government believed. Enlightenment thinkers believed that government should be controlled by the people.

Jefferson presented the final draft of his declaration to the Second Continental Congress on July 2, 1776. The body debated changing various aspects of the letter. On **July 4th, 1776** the colonists voted to adopt the letter and the **Declaration of Independence** became one of the most important documents in American history.

A Closer Look at Declaration...

The Declaration of Independence is broken down into 5 sections, and then signatures.

1. Preamble
2. Statement of Beliefs
3. List of Complaints
4. Prior attempts at redress
5. Declaration of Independence
6. Signatures

Go back to the Break-Up Letter from the Warm-Up. It was written in the same format as the Declaration of Independence. Try to label each section of the letter with a corresponding label from the Declaration.

PREAMBLE:

When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

STATEMENT OF BELIEFS:

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.—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 to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

LIST OF COMPLAINTS:

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. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

- 1. He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.*
- 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 so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them*
- 3. For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:*
- 4. For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:*
- 5. For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:*

ATTEMPTS AT REDRESS

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 of a free people.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE:

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That 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; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

Why does Georgia sign the Declaration of Independence?

This letter was written by the Council of Safety to Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall and George Walton, explaining their desires to the representatives of Georgia to the Continental Congress.

Archibald Bulloch

President, Council of Safety

Savannah, Ga

April 5, 1776

Gentlemen,

Our remote situation from both the seat of power and arms, keeps us so very ignorant of the counsels and ultimate designs of the Congress, and of the transactions in the field, that we shall decline giving any particular instructions, other than strongly to recommend it to you that you never lose sight of the peculiar situation of the province you are appointed to represent: The Indians, both south and northwesterly, upon our backs; the fortified town of St. Augustine made a continual rendezvous for soldiers in our very neighborhood; together with our blacks and Tories with us; let these weighty truths be the powerful arguments for support. At the time we also recommend it to you, always to keep in view the general utility, remembering that the great and righteous cause in which we are engaged is not provincial, but continental. We, therefore, gentlemen, shall rely upon your patriotism, abilities, firmness, and integrity, to propose, join and concur, in all such measures as you shall think calculated for the common good, and to oppose such as shall appear destructive.

By order of the Congress

Archibald Bulloch, President

1. What are the main reasons that Bulloch gives for Georgia's support for the Continental Congress?
2. What evidence is there to show that Patriots in Georgia believe in supporting the other colonies?
3. What reasons does Bulloch give for the selection of these men to represent the colony of Georgia to the Continental Congress?