

In-Class Essay will be given on Tuesday October 28, 2014

You may prepare for the essay by taking notes and creating an outline on the other side of this paper.
You are strongly encouraged to create a thesis statement for your essay!
You may bring in this paper on the date of the essay and use it while you are writing. No other notes will be allowed!

U.S. History and Government I

THEMATIC ESSAY QUESTION

Directions: Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs addressing the task below, and a conclusion.

Theme: Declaration of Independence

The Declaration of Independence is one of the great cornerstones of American democracy. It explains to the world the democratic ideas of the United States and justifies the reasons for proclaiming separation from Britain.

Task:

Using the *Declaration of Independence*:

- **Identify** at least *two* political ideas stated in the *Declaration of Independence*
- **Explain** why the colonists declared their independence
- **Analyze** the importance of this document for the United States of America

You should consider the different parts of the Declaration of Independence when writing your essay: introduction, democratic philosophy of government (this section includes political ideas), list of grievances (complaints against the King), and conclusion.

**** See textbook pages: 109 – 112**

For the original copy of the *Declaration of Independence*.

Guidelines:

In your essay, be sure to

- Develop all aspects of the task
- Support the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Use a logical and clear plan of organization, including an introduction and a conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme

In developing your answer to Part II, be sure to keep these general definitions in mind:

(a) explain means “to make plain or understandable; to give reasons for or causes of; to show the logical development or relationships of”

(b) analyze means “to determine the nature and relationship of the component elements”

Remember the following:

1. This essay will count as a **TEST grade!** It is important that you spend thoughtful time working on creating a good outline with detailed notes!
2. This essay will be graded based on the rubric that is used for Regents Exams (this rubric is posted on the class webpage – titled Thematic Essay Rubric). This is important practice for your preparation for the exam.
3. If you need help with this essay, seek tutoring **BEFORE** Tuesday!