

Name: _____ Date: _____

Declaration of Independence Primary Source Analysis

Definition “Primary Source”: the raw materials of history—original documents and objects that were created at the time under study (Library of Congress)

Directions:

- Read the Declaration of Independence carefully.
- Respond to the prompts below to analyze various aspects of the document.

Document Information:

1. Authorship

Who were the primary authors of the Declaration of Independence? Who are some notable contributors/signers?

2. Date

When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?

Content Analysis:

3. Purpose

What is the primary purpose of the Declaration of Independence? What are some of the grievances and issues does it address?

4. Key Phrases

Identify and list three key phrases or sentences that stand out to you in the document. Explain why you find them significant.

5. Grievances Against the King

Summarize the major grievances listed against King George III. How do these grievances contribute to the document's overall message?

Structure and Language:

6. Structure

Describe the overall structure of the Declaration of Independence. How is it organized? Are there distinct sections?

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7. Rhetorical Devices

Identify any rhetorical devices (such as ethos, pathos, logos) used in the document. How do these contribute to its persuasive nature?



8. Language Complexity

Comment on the complexity of the language used in the Declaration of Independence. How might the language have influenced its reception by different audiences?

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