**Declaration of Independence Report Card**

Is the United States upholding the principles that were outlined in the Declaration of Independence? To answer this question you and your group will be creating a report card evaluating the principles outlined in the Declaration, and whether the U.S has been successful in upholding each of them.

Principle 1: *We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal*

Principle 2: *Endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness*

Principle 3: *Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just power from the consent of the governed*

Principle 4: *Whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it*

**Directions:** You will work with your group to make a report card for the United States based on the four principles above. The report card must include the following…

1. The above principles
2. An explanation of each principle (put them in your own words)
3. A grade (A-E) for how the U.S. is currently upholding this principle
4. An explanation of your grade with evidence that supports your claim\* (why did you give the grade that you did? What evidence and examples can you use to support the grade you gave)
5. An overall GPA for the country (Average your grades)

\*Listed below are some links to resources that you may use as evidence to support your explanation.

**Links to Resources:**

Principle 1- All men are created equal

Consider how different identities ( race, gender, social class, ethnic groups, citizenship) affect how the rights of people are regarded

<http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2016/06/27/4-achieving-racial-equality/>

**Achieving racial equality**

Data evaluating tactics used to achieve racial equality

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-38536668>

**Barack Obama Legacy: Did he improve US relations ?**

Principle 2- Basic Rights

Do you think these rights listed in the Declaration of Independence are protected today? Can you think of examples of when these rights are taken away from Americans today?

<https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/06/26/supreme-court-gay-marriage_n_7470036.html>

**Supreme Court Legalizes Gay Marriage Nationwide**

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/puerto-rico-says-treasury-abruptly-cutting-4-7-billion-relief-loan-to-2-billion/>

**Puerto Rico says Treasury abruptly cutting $4.7 billion relief loan to $2 billion**

Principle 3- Government gets its power from the people

<http://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/money-has-too-much-influence-politics-say-americans>

**Money has too much of an influence in politics Americans say**

<https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2018/02/13/atlanta-mayor-keisha-lance-bottoms-black-women-vote-political-power-216969>

**Black Women are realizing the power of their vote**

Principle 4- People have the right to alter or abolish the government

<http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/2018/02/every-attempt-to-change-gun-laws-under-trump.html>

**How Republicans have been making gun laws worse under Trump**

<http://money.cnn.com/2017/12/15/news/economy/michigan-trump-voters/index.html>

**Michigan’s Trump voters, a year later**