Contextualization & Synthesis... **Declaration of Independence**

(your chosen term)

Local Context
(Who, What, When, Where)

The Declaration of Independence is one of America's founding documents, written primarily by Thomas Jefferson but also heavily influenced by others at the Second Continental Congress as well as Enlightenment thinkers such as John Locke and modern day political philosophers such as Thomas Paine. The document listed grievances against the king and justified rebellion of the colonies due to the king's violation of natural rights.

Broad Context
Why, How
What is the "Big Picture?"
What is the theme?

The Declaration of Independence was issued in 1776 due to a change in political thought and political strategy during a time when the Patriots were struggling with Britain's imperial policy. This policy included numerous taxes as well as a lack of judicial fairness (among other things). It illustrates the break from an effort to reconcile to rebel and break away (major turning point). The principles of this document became an ideal for the American system and identity.

Comparative/Other Context
Similar in Kind From a Different Time

The political and social ideal set forth in the Declaration of Independence, including the ideas of natural rights that the government cannot take away as well as the ideal that "all men are created equal" is very similar to Lincoln's Gettysburg Address during the Civil War in which he quoted the Declaration, making the Civil War more than a battle to preserve the Union but also a battle to end slavery. Both documents built upon enlightened ideas which increased freedom and liberty for individuals. With the Declaration, freedom and liberty gained didn't include slaves. With the Gettysburg Address and subsequent Amendments, slavery ended and liberty was extended to African Americans. Both were major turning points in U.S. history.

Local-Broad-Other contextualization strategy adapted by Rebecca Richardson, Allen High School, from John P. Irish, Carroll High School