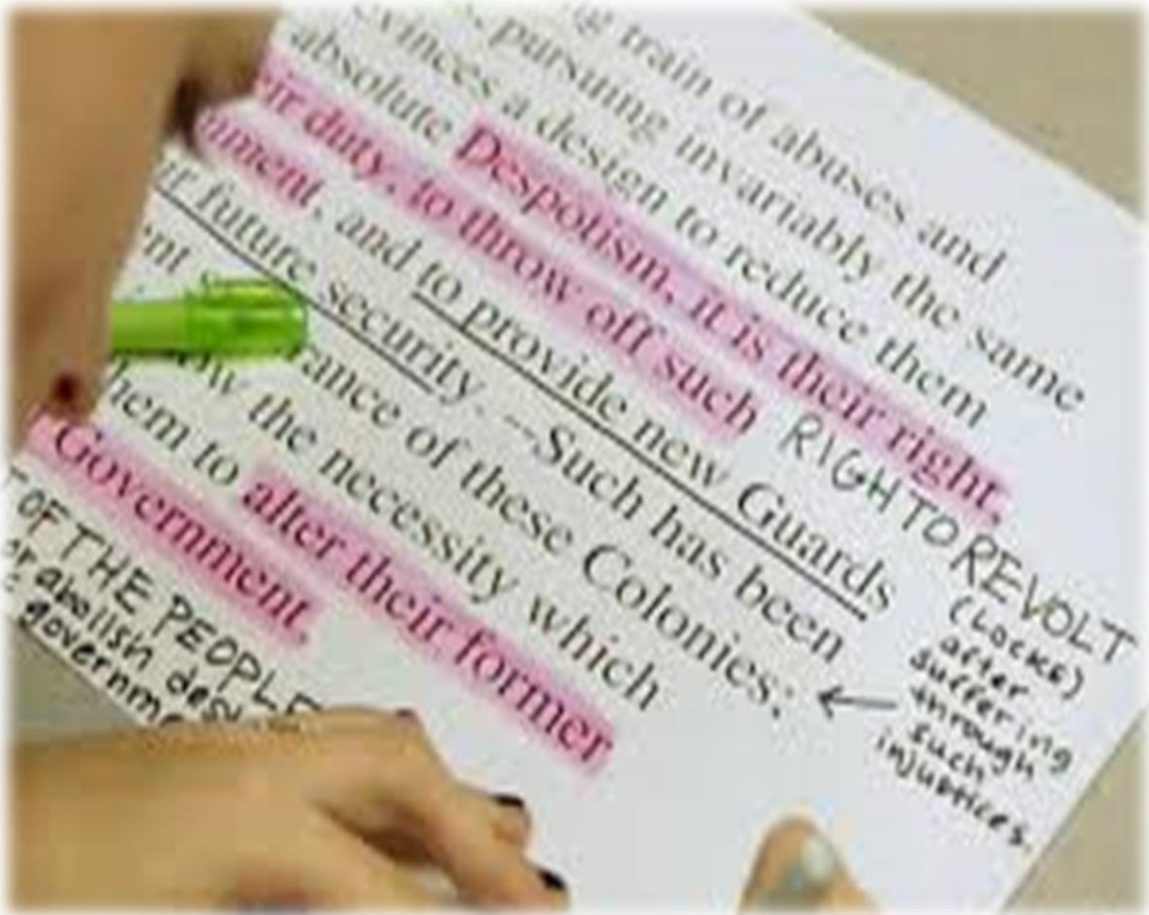


# Was the Declaration of Independence a Muted Voice for Freedom, Equity and Equality for Some Americans?

## Informative/Explanatory Performance Writing Task

By Beryl Irene Bailey, Ed.D., CCC/SLP



### Student Performance Task Booklet

Text 1: *From the Declaration of Independence in Congress July 4, 1776*

Text 2: *Declaration of Sentiments: Women's Rights Convention July 19, 1848*

Text 3: *From the Meaning of July Fourth for the Negro: July 5, 1852*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

## ***from the Declaration of Independence***

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Teacher:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

**Conduct a close read of the excerpted Declaration of Independence and circle the letter of the best answer for the selected response questions.**

1. What does the word **Course** mean as it is used in the context highlighted in the Declaration of Independence?
  - a. Class
  - b. Option
  - c. Passage
  - d. Progression
  
2. What does the word **dissolve** mean as it is used in the context highlighted in the Declaration of Independence?
  - a. liquefy
  - b. melt
  - c. separate
  - d. soften
  
3. What does the word **station** mean as it is used in the context highlighted in the Declaration of Independence?
  - a. location
  - b. place
  - c. post
  - d. rank
  
4. What does the word **endowed** mean as it is used in the context highlighted in the Declaration of Independence?
  - a. artistic
  - b. awarded
  - c. brilliant
  - d. donated

5. What does the word **institute** mean as it is used in the context highlighted in the Declaration of Independence?
- a. establish
  - b. foundation
  - c. organization
  - d. society
6. Which word best defines **Prudence** as it is used in the context highlighted in the Declaration of Independence?
- a. courts
  - b. ignorance
  - c. judgment
  - d. practicality
7. Identify the trait that is not true of a **transient cause**. Use clues from the context highlighted in the Declaration of Independence.
- a. brief
  - b. momentary
  - c. persists
  - d. temporary
8. Which word can replace the word **invariably** in the context highlighted in the Declaration of Independence and maintain the point of view of the Colonists?
- a. inconsistently
  - b. inexhaustibly
  - c. infrequently
  - d. involuntarily
9. Which word best defines the word **evinces** as it is used in the context highlighted in the Declaration of Independence?
- a. communicates
  - b. exposes
  - c. reveals
  - d. shows

10. Which definition best satisfies the meaning of the word **design** as it is used in the context highlighted in the Declaration of Independence?

- a. to make a drawing pattern or sketch
- b. to create, fashion, execute
- c. to have as a purpose
- d. to draw plans for

11. Explain what the phrase, “**laws of nature and of nature’s God**” means as used in the context highlighted in the Declaration of Independence. Cite evidence from the text.

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12. Explain what the word **Despotism** means as it used in the context highlighted in the Declaration of Independence. Cite evidence from the text.

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14. Which definition **best** satisfies the meaning of the word **history** as used in the context highlighted in the Declaration of Independence?
- Report*-an official document that gives information about a particular subject.
  - Log*- a record of performance, events, or day-to-day activities.
  - Tale*- a series of events or facts told or presented.
  - Saga*- a long and complicated series of events.
15. The primary purpose of the excerpted *Declaration of Independence* is \_\_\_\_\_.
- To emphasize the need to dissolve any condemning political relationships
  - To inform Great Britain that the colonies would be separating
  - To persuade Great Britain to join the colonies in the creation of a new nation
  - To explain to the foreign nations why the colonies had chosen to separate themselves from Great Britain
16. The use of the word **dissolve** mainly serves to\_\_\_\_\_.
- To clarify the reasoning behind declaring a new set of states
  - To reveal the political connection between current world leaders
  - To emphasize the need to separate from unreasonable political bands
  - To provide logic to the necessary change that needs to occur between world leaders
17. It can be reasonably inferred that **unalienable Rights**
- Cannot be taken away by a chosen Government.
  - Are not secured by a chosen Government.
  - Do not include the pursuit of Happiness.
  - Were not given by the Creator.

18. The phrase “**endowed by their creator**” most nearly means
- 
- a. presented to by God
  - b. awarded by God
  - c. entertained by his or her parent
  - d. donated by God
19. The Declaration of Independence most strongly suggests a relationship between which of the following?
- a. Government and the dictation of unalienable rights
  - b. American citizenship and unalienable rights
  - c. Humanity and unalienable rights
  - d. Patriotism and economic prosperity
20. Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?
- a. “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.”
  - b. “...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...”
  - c. “But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.”
  - d. “To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.”

21. Identify the statement which best could be considered a counter or opposing claim in the Declaration of Independence.

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# Declaration of Sentiments

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

**Conduct a close read of the excerpted Declaration of Sentiments and circle the letter of the best answer for the selected response questions.**

1. What does the first word **course** mean as it is used in the context highlighted in the Declaration of Sentiments?
  - a. A chosen manner of conducting oneself
  - b. Accustomed procedure or normal action
  - c. Progression through a series of events
  - d. The direction of travel of a vehicle
  
2. What does the second word **course** mean as it is used in the context highlighted in the Declaration of Sentiments?
  - a. A chosen manner of conducting oneself
  - b. Accustomed procedure or normal action
  - c. Progression through a series of events
  - d. The direction of travel of a vehicle
  
3. What does the second word **portion** mean as it is used in the context highlighted in the Declaration of Sentiments?
  - a. The amount of food that is served to a person at one time
  - b. A part of something that is shared with other people
  - c. A part or section of a larger whole
  - d. To divide something into parts
  
4. What does the word **occupied** mean as it is used in the context highlighted in the Declaration of Sentiments?
  - a. To have taken or held possession or control of
  - b. To have engaged the attention or energies of
  - c. To have filled or performed the functions of
  - d. To have resided in as an owner or tenant

5. What does the word **consent** mean as it is used in the context highlighted in the Declaration of Sentiments?
- a. agreement
  - b. feelings
  - c. harmony
  - d. permission
6. What does the word **allegiance** mean as it is used in the context highlighted in the Declaration of Sentiments?
- a. concern
  - b. faithfulness
  - c. love
  - d. loyalty
7. What does the word **dictate** mean as it is used in the context highlighted in the Declaration of Sentiments?
- a. control
  - b. decide
  - c. read aloud
  - d. speak
8. Conduct a close read of facts #1 and 4 and **deduce** what the word **franchise** means as used in the context highlighted in the Declaration of Sentiments.
- a. Commerce authorization to market manufacturer's products
  - b. A brand name under which a series of products is released
  - c. The constitutional right to vote
  - d. The full rights of citizenship
9. What does the word **framed** mean as it is used in the context highlighted in the Declaration of Sentiments?
- a. bordered
  - b. constructed
  - c. enclosed
  - d. outlined

10. What does the word **scanty** mean as it is used in the context highlighted in the Declaration of Sentiments?
- flimsy
  - light
  - revealing
  - small
11. Identify the word that is not a synonym for the word **remuneration**.
- payment
  - retainer
  - salary
  - wages
12. What does the word **avenues** mean as it is used in the context highlighted in the Declaration of Sentiments?
- opportunities
  - paths
  - lanes
  - streets
13. Identify the type of contextual clue that supports the readers understanding of the word **facilities** as it is used in the context highlighted in the Declaration of Sentiments.
- antonym definition
  - apposition definition
  - formal definition
  - structural analysis
14. Identify the type of contextual clue that supports the readers understanding of the word **subordinate** as it is used in the context highlighted in the Declaration of Sentiments.
- antonym definition
  - compare definition
  - structural analysis
  - synonym definition

15. Identify the type of contextual clue that supports the readers understanding of the word **prerogative** as it is used in the context highlighted in the Declaration of Sentiments.
- antonym definition
  - compare definition
  - structural analysis
  - synonym definition
16. What does the word **abject** mean as it is used in the context highlighted in the Declaration of Sentiments?
- submissive to the will of others
  - utterly wretched or hopeless
  - miserable, forlorn, dejected
  - contemptible; despicable
17. What does the word **admission** mean as it is used in the context highlighted in the Declaration of Sentiments?
- acknowledgment of truth
  - right to enter; access
  - allowed to enter
  - an entrance fee
18. The primary purpose of the excerpted ***Declaration of Sentiments*** is \_\_\_\_\_.
- To inform women of the rights they will be receiving in the near future.
  - To outline the rights women have been provided by American Citizenship.
  - To outline the rights women should be entitled to as citizens.
  - To present an argument as to why men should have more rights than women.

19. The use of the word "**portion**" mainly serves to \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. Present the amount of food served to a person at one time.
  - b. Describe a part of something shared with other people.
  - c. Define man and woman as separate beings that both deserve equal rights.
  - d. To divide a marriage into two parts.
20. The phrase "**civilly dead**" most nearly means \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. loss of all rights
  - b. unable to remain polite
  - c. disrespected
  - d. loss of equality





## From The Meaning of July Fourth for the Negro

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

**Directions: Conduct a close read of the excerpted passages of Frederick Douglass' speech and answer the selected and constructed questions below using evidence from the speech.**

"Would to God, both for your sakes and ours that an affirmative answer could be truthfully returned to these questions! Then would my task be light and my burden easy and delightful. For who is there so **cold**, that a nation's sympathy could not warm him?"

1. The word "cold" in this context most nearly means:
  - a) dead
  - b) freezing
  - c) hospitable
  - d) unfeeling

"Who so **obdurate** and dead to the claims of gratitude that would not thankfully acknowledge such priceless benefits?"

2. The word "obdurate" in this context most nearly means:
  - a) alive with envy
  - b) lacking in manners
  - c) hardened in feelings
  - d) ignorant of the issues

"Who so **stolid** and selfish, that would not give his voice to swell the hallelujahs of a nation's jubilee, when the chains of servitude had been torn from his limbs?"

3. The word "stolid" in this context most nearly means:
  - a) ignorant
  - b) rude
  - c) sensitive
  - d) unemotional



4. Identify the FACADES context clue that helped you to infer the meaning of the word "stolid".
- a) antonym definition
  - b) compare definition
  - c) description definition
  - d) formal definition
5. The excerpted portion of Douglass' speech most strongly suggests a relationship between which of the following?
- a) Freedom and the fourth of July
  - b) American citizenship and inalienable rights
  - c) The perception of freedom and its hypocrisy
  - d) The freedom as American people and the equitable governmental policies
6. The primary purpose of the excerpted portion of the speech, the Meaning of July Fourth for the Negro is:
- a) To inform members of the audience of the great progress America has made since the signing of the Declaration of Independence
  - b) To outline the rights African-Americans still do not have when compared to White Americans
  - c) To present the brutal reality regarding the racial inequality that still pervades the United States
  - d) To present an argument as to why African-Americans should have more rights than White Americans

<u>1834</u>	Henry Blair of Maryland received a patent from the U.S. government for developing a mechanical corn planter.
<u>1837</u>	The Institute for Colored Youth is founded in Southeastern Pennsylvania. It later becomes <u>Cheyney University</u> .
<u>1845</u>	<u>Macon B. Allen</u> of Worcester, Massachusetts is the first African American admitted to the bar in any state when he is allowed to practice law in Massachusetts.
<u>1847</u>	<u>David Jones Peck</u> is the first African American graduate of a U.S. medical school. He graduates from Rush Medical College in Chicago.
<u>1850</u>	The American League of Colored Workers, formed in New York City, is the first African American labor union in the United States.

7. Determine which paragraph contains Douglass' claim supported by the above timeline.
- a) 1
  - b) 2
  - c) 3
  - d) 4

8. Explain how this visual graphic supports Douglass' claim. Use evidence from his speech.

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Year	Total US Population	African American	% of Total Population	Slaves	% of African Americans in Slavery
1790	3,929,214	757,208	19.27%	697,681	92%
1800	5,308,483	1,002,037	18.88%	893,602	89%
1810	7,239,881	1,377,808	19.03%	1,191,362	86%
1820	9,638,453	1,771,656	18.38%	1,538,022	87%
1830	12,860,702	2,328,642	18.11%	2,009,043	86%
1840	17,063,353	2,873,648	16.84%	2,487,355	87%
1850	23,191,876	3,638,808	15.69%	3,204,287	88%
1860	31,443,321	4,441,830	14.13%	3,953,731	89%

9. Determine which paragraph contains Douglass' claim supported by the above chart.
- a) 1
  - b) 2
  - c) 3
  - d) 4







