**Declaration of Independence: Background Information and Brainstorming**

**Background Information**

| **Notes** |
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| * + During the Second Continental Congress in 1775, delegates argued over whether to seek \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or remain loyal to Great Britain. Many did not want to seek independence as they feared that this would start a war with Great Britain. Others felt that independence was necessary because King George III was an oppressor who was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the colonists’ rights and actions. They felt that Great Britain was becoming a tyranny.   + In 1776, Thomas Paine stated that it was “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” for the colonies to break away from Great Britain. He said that King George was a “royal brute” and the colonies had every right to sever ties.   + After many months of debate, more than half of the delegates agreed to declare independence from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.   + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s writings were very influential in the decision to declare independence.   + Thomas Jefferson, the main \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, detailed the colonies’ reasons for breaking away with Great Britain.   + The document argued that the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ did not look after the interests of the colonies anymore.   + He listed the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, or complaints, that the colonists had towards the crown. |

**Document Brainstorming**

| What features do you notice about the document? |  |
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| What does this document make you feel or think about? |  |
| What are the words or phrases from the document that caused this feeling or thought? |  |