

Reading Strategies - Declaration of Independence

Read and annotate the Declaration of Independence by Thomas Jefferson. Use your annotations to answer the questions below

1. In your own words, what is the thesis of this document?
2. Give one example, according to Jefferson, for how the British have abused the first face of power, the control an outcome for an individual or group?
3. Give one example for how the British have abused the second face of power, the control of choices and setting the agenda.
4. Jefferson asserts that the colonies have the right to claim and use power. But toward what end? What does the Declaration suggest will make the power used by colonial legislatures and the Congress different that the power wielded by the King?
5. What rhetorical opposition does Jefferson set up in this document between the character of the colonists and the character of the British government?
6. To what degree does Jefferson justify declaring independence at this particular point in time? Given what you know about the situation, what is the strongest reason for acting now?

Reading Strategies - Common Sense

Read and annotate the excerpts of Common Sense by Thomas Paine. Use your annotations to answer the questions below

1. Taking all these excerpts together, what is Paine's thesis?
2. How strong is Paine's evidence within these excerpts? How does Paine justify his position?
3. Give one example that Paine uses for how the British have abused the first face of power, controlling an outcome for an individual or group?
4. How does Paine touch on the third face of power, the control of norms and expectations?
5. What strategies does Paine set up in these excerpts to get people on his side?
6. To what degree does Paine justify declaring independence at this particular point in time? Given what you know about the situation, what is the strongest reason for acting now?