

John Hancock

(First Part)

Gentlemen . . . as President of the Second Continental Congress, I say we need to let KING GEORGE III of England know how we feel. We have discussed many of the things that the King has done to upset us, such as the Quartering Act, the Proclamation of 1763, and Taxation without Representation. I have asked THOMAS JEFFERSON to head a committee to write a document explaining that we want to be a free and independent country.

(Second Part)

(Recite this last line in unison with all the characters.)

And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm Reliance on the Protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.