

AMERICAN EXPERIMENT CARDS

First Part AND Second Part

Presenter will lead the students in order of the reading. Students will read the First Part individually, one at a time. When the reading of the First Part is complete, students will read the Second Part in unison.

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.

American Experiment Card #1
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Thomas Jefferson

(First Part)

Here is how I started the new document: When in the course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation.

(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.

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Benjamin Franklin

(First Part)

It continues with a declaration of our rights as free men. We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by the Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.

(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.

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Roger Sherman

(First Part)

That to secure these Rights, 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, and to institute new Government.

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

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Robert Livingston

(First Part)

We have included examples of the evil things that King George has done to us. He has sent armies over to America, even though there is peace. He has taken our laws away from us and our rights to live the way we want. He has refused to let other people from other lands come to America, and has sent his own new officials to watch over us. He has told the Indians to riot, attack, and kill Americans. He even protects his soldiers when they are guilty of crimes, such as murder!

(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.

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John Adams

(First Part)

After listing our complaints, we have given our statement of Independence: We, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intention, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, that these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States.

(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.

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