

Section	1776	Modern Day
List of Grievances	For suspending our own legislature, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.	The king has declared that he will no longer consider protecting the lives, liberties, and property of the colonists.
	He has abdicated government here, by declaring us out of his protection and waging war against us.	He has encouraged both Indian and slave revolts against the colonists.
	He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burned our towns , and destroyed the lives of our people.	The king has hired German mercenaries to attack us.
	He is at this time transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries to complete the works of death , desolation , and tyranny already begun with circumstances of cruelty and perfidy	The king's troops have declared war on us for the reasons listed.
	He has constrained out fellow-citizens, taken captive on the high seas, to bear arms against their country, to become the executioners of their friends and brethren, or to fall themselves by their hands.	We have asked the king numerous times to come to terms with us. Each time we have, he answers with more restrictions and punishments. Therefore, he is a tyrant for not listening and caring for his people.
	He has excited domestic insurrections among us , and has endeavored to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers the merciless Indian savages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes, and conditions.	Any American colonist who was captured by the British navy were forced to fight in the British navy against his countrymen.
	In every stage of these oppressions we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms; our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A prince whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.	Reference to the Declaratory Act (1766) that stated the British government had the right to rule the colonies in any way they saw fit.
	Nor have we been wanting in attention to our British brethren. We have warned them, from time to time,of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity; and we have conjured them, by the ties of our common kindred, to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They, too , have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity which denounces our separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, enemies in war, in peace, friends.	We have tried to work with Parliament, asking that they repeat British representative law. We have also reminded them that we are British subjects. They have ignored our inherited rights as British subjects, therefore we are declaring ourselves independent from a government that does not protect our rights and freedoms. We will be their enemy in war, but we hope to be friends in peace.