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| Declaration of Independence | In modern words… |  |
| *“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.”* |  |  |
| *“...We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness...”* |  |  |
| *“–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...”* |  |  |
| *“But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security.”* |  |  |