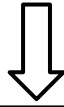


## Essential Question

Is the Declaration of Independence the best breakup letter in history?



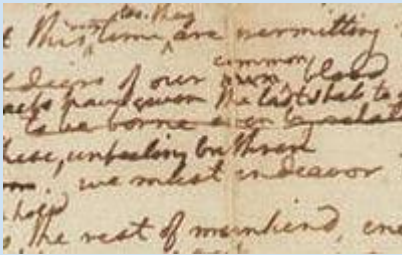
## Background Knowledge

Help teachers place the Declaration in context to help students understand why it was written, to compare the point of view of King George III and the American colonists, and then to deconstruct the reasons and evidence that were articulated in the document.



### Source 1

Original rough draft of the Declaration of Independence.

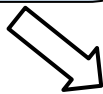
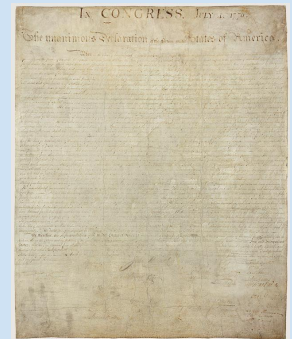


### Strategy Instructions:

*The GIST Strategy*  
*Circle of Viewpoints*  
*Human Timeline*

### Source 2

The Declaration of Independence



## Discussion

When the Declaration was written, the colonists and the British had already been fighting for more than a year. Why did the Founding Fathers think it was necessary to write the Declaration of Independence down?



## Assessment

Students re-write the Declaration as a breakup letter. They take on the viewpoint of the colonists, and write a letter to King George III detailing the reasons why they are “breaking up” with him.