Name _____

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170

182

Read the passage. Use the reread strategy to make sure you understand the text.

A True Declaration

Do you like to write? What if you wrote words that helped form laws? This is what Thomas Jefferson did. He was the third president of the United States, but he might be best known for writing the Declaration of Independence.

A Strong Start

Jefferson was born on April 13, 1743. At the age of nine, he began to study Latin, Greek, and French. He would one day be able to speak five languages and read seven.

When he went to school he studied law. In 1769 he was part of the House of Burgesses, which was the first group of chosen law-makers in our nation. While there, he was not known as a great public speaker. It is not only spoken words that can make a change, though. Sometimes written words can be just as valuable. People liked the way he wrote about information from meetings while he was there. They knew that he could write very well.

When the people wanted to be free from Britain, they asked Jefferson to help. They asked him to write about why people wanted to rebel against Britain. So he wrote the Declaration of Independence.

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The Power of Words

The Declaration said that we are all created equal. It said that we all have certain rights, including "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." This means that we should all have the right to freedom and happiness. Jefferson wrote these words when the people had a

lot of criticism for British law. They wanted to be free from these laws. The people did not agree with the king. They wanted to protect their happiness. They wanted to be in charge of making their own laws.

The words that Jefferson wrote were the thoughts of many people. The people did not want to live under British rule. They felt that it was not fair. Instead, they wanted to have a life of liberty. They wanted a life where all people were equal,



where people could search for happiness. This is why Jefferson wrote that if a government is not working, "it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it." This meant that the people had the power. They could change how they were ruled.

Jefferson's words gave a voice to the people. His words filled them with optimism. His words gave them strength, too. The people felt ready to say they were free of Britain. The day on which they made this official is a special day. Do you know what day it is? It is the Fourth of July.

Jefferson was in law and politics. Yet, he is also known as a great writer. The Declaration that he wrote helped in the development of our nation. It came when the people needed it most. Without his strong words, America might not have been able to find its freedom when it did.

Nar	me
itai	
A. F	Reread the passage and answer the questions.
	Which detail in the first paragraph tells you what the author thinks lefferson's biggest accomplishment is?
_	
	What does the seventh paragraph tell you about how the author feels about the words Jefferson wrote?
	low do your feelings about what Jefferson did for our country compare vith the author's?
_	
_	
_	

B. Work with a partner. Read the passage aloud. Pay attention to expression. Stop after one minute. Fill out the chart.

	Words Read	ı	Number of Errors	=	Words Correct Score
First Read		1		=	
Second Read		_		=	

Encouraging Change

John F. Kennedy did not plan to be a politician. He wanted to have a job in academics or the news. However, from 1947–1953 he was in the House of Representatives. He was a Senator from 1953-1960. In 1960 he was elected president. The words in his speech in 1961 helped bring change. He said, "Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your



President John F. Kennedy gives a speech to Congress in 1961.

country." He wanted people to better each other's lives.

Answer the questions about the text.

1. How do you know this text is a biography? 2. What text features does the text include? 3. What does the caption tell you about the photograph? 4. How do you know the photograph is a primary source?

Using the information in the box above, circle the word in each sentence below with a Latin or Greek suffix. Write the meaning of the word on the line. Use a dictionary if necessary.

- 1. He was the third president of the United States, but he might be best known for writing the Declaration of Independence.
- **2.** Sometimes written words can be just as valuable.
- **3.** People liked the way he wrote about information from meetings while he was there.
- **4.** Jefferson wrote these words when the people had a lot of criticism for British law.
- **5.** His words filled them with optimism.
- **6.** What Jefferson wrote helped in the development of our nation.

No	ame		
	Read each sentence oun in parentheses.	. On the line, write th	ne correct plural form of the
1.	(prop) The play include	ded many	to make it look real.
2.	(hobby) I have two _		$_{-}$ that I enjoy doing after school.
3.	(mistake) Did you ma	ke any	on your homework?
4.	(moss) There are diffe	erent kinds of	and plants.
5.	(arch) We drove under the city.	er two huge	when we entered
6.	(day) There are sever	1	in each week.
		_	nd -ence all mean "the state of" ng of each word below.
1.	storage		
2.	brightness		
3.	punishment		
4.	guidance		
5.	patience		

6. excitement

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Name _____

The student who	ails and examples from a text that support a writer's ideas. o wrote the paragraph below cited text evidence that shows supported his point of view.
Topic → sentence	In "A True Declaration," the author states that Thomas Jefferson was a great writer. To support his viewpoint,
Evidence	the author says that by writing the Declaration of Independence, "Jefferson's words gave a voice to the people." The author supports this statement by explaining that people did not want to live under British law. They
Concluding →	wanted liberty. Jefferson was able to express this in the Declaration of Independence. By discussing the importance of the Declaration of Independence, the author supports his viewpoint that Jefferson was a great writer.
	people." The author supports this statement by explaining that people did not want to live under British law. They wanted liberty. Jefferson was able to express this in the Declaration of Independence. By discussing the importance of the Declaration of Independence, the author

Write a paragraph about the text you have chosen. Cite evidence from the text to show how the author supported his point of view. Remember to include a strong opening and concluding statements and to use linking verbs correctly.

vvrit	e a topic sentence:
Cite	evidence from the text:
_	
End	with a concluding statement:
_	

A. Read the draft model. Use the questions that follow the draft to help you think about what details you can add to give the narrative a strong conclusion.

Draft Model

I had blamed my brother for ruining one of my books. He insisted that he hadn't even gone in my room. Then I saw the book's cover in our puppy's mouth. I learned an important lesson.

- 1. What details would tell why the narrator blamed the brother for ruining the book?
- 2. What did the puppy look like when the writer found it?
- 3. What details would provide a sense of closure and summarize the lesson the narrator learned?

B. Now revise the draft by adding a strong conclusion to help give readers