Close Reading: Declaration of Independence

1. What claims does the author make in the **first** paragraph?

\*It is now necessary to separate from Britain, and out of respect, we will state our causes.

1. What words or phrases does the author (Thomas Jefferson) use to convince me of his claims in #1?

\*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal. They are endowed by their CREATOR with certain unalienable rights. Among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. If a government becomes destructive, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute a new government.

1. Restate the words and phrases from #2 in your own words. You may discuss this with your partner or group.

\*answers vary, but may include: everyone should be treated fairly, some rights cannot be taken away, and if the government is bad, we have a right to start a new one or change the one we have.

1. Why did Thomas Jefferson refer to King George as a tyrant? Which words and phrases from the text support this character trait?

\*answers will vary, but may include: he refused to make decisions for the public good…(see grievances)