



ACTIVITY OVERVIEW



Q1 • Declaration of Independence • High School • ALL School

Stories of the Declaration of Independence

Activity Overview

This All School activity invites high school students to examine the Declaration of Independence as a foundational historical document and a catalyst for ongoing conversations about freedom, resistance, and democratic ideals. Through collaborative, creative, and reflective experiences, students analyze grievances, historical figures, and modern interpretations of the American Revolution while considering how ideas of independence continue to shape society today.

This activity is designed to be participatory and reflective, offering a shared schoolwide experience that can be explored more deeply through classroom discussion, creative expression, or written reflection.

Activity Options

Option A: School-wide Declaration of Independence Montage Video

Students collaborate across classes to create a montage-style video that presents the full Declaration of Independence. Guided by a lead class, students contribute readings, performances, or creative interpretations of assigned sections, culminating in a shared video viewed during an all-school assembly.

Option B: Signers Bingo Competition

Students participate in a schoolwide bingo-style activity by identifying staff members portraying Signers of the Declaration of Independence. This option encourages inquiry, movement, and engagement with historical figures throughout the school day.

Option C: American Revolution Film or Mini-Series

Students view a selected film or mini-series connected to the American Revolution. This option allows students to explore how historical narratives and ideas of independence are represented through media.

Before the Activity

Educators select an activity option and prepare materials, roles, or technology as outlined in the Checklist. Teachers may introduce background context or preview key ideas with students in advance.



During the Activity

Students gather for a shared All School experience.

Option A: Students collaborate across classes to record, edit, and view the Declaration of Independence montage video.

Option B: Students participate in the Signers Bingo activity as explained in class.

Option C: Students watch the selected film together with a brief introduction.

After the Activity

Classroom discussions or written reflections allow students to consider how the activity influenced their understanding of the Declaration of Independence and the American Revolution. Suggested reflection questions are available in the Educator Resources.

Educator Notes

This activity is intentionally flexible and may be adapted to fit different schedules, student interests, and school cultures.

Follow-up discussions or reflections may be brief or extended.

Additional background information, media guidance, and discussion questions are available in the Educator Resources document.

The goal is critical engagement and reflection, not comprehensive historical coverage.

Connection to Statewide Theme

The Stories of the Declaration of Independence activity supports students in examining how historical arguments for independence continue to influence modern democratic movements and civic identity. educators may choose to share student-created videos, reflections, or discussions during assemblies, Constitution Day events, or schoolwide showcases.