

Name: _____

The Continental Congress Creates the Declaration of Independence

Objective: Recreate the Continental Congress and its debate over the contents of the Declaration of Independence.

Directions: You will role play the delegate of your choice. You may work alone or with a partner.

Step 1: Do some research on your delegate and be prepared to give the class a 1-minute overview of who you are. Where are you from? What is your profession? Add anything interesting about yourself. Wear a nametag so everyone knows your name.

Step 2: Study your assigned proposal from the main body (not the Preamble) of the Declaration of Independence. Using your textbook and/or other resources add specific historical context to explain why you support that proposal.

Step 3: Write a 2- to 3-minute speech on behalf of your proposal. Make it interesting, use humor, be creative. You need to convince the other delegates that your proposal should be included.

Step 4: Look at some of the other delegate's proposals and come up with two good questions to ask about them.

Step 5: Print two copies of your speech. One is for you to use during the conference, the other you will hand in at the beginning of class.

Guidelines:

Moderated Conference

- You will have 2-3 minutes to introduce yourself and explain why your proposal should be included in the Declaration.
- After each speech, the Chair will recognize other delegates to ask questions.
- Ask pointed questions of the other delegates. What are the consequences of what they are proposing? Are they being fair? Realistic? Should they amend the wording in their proposal?

Unmoderated Conference

- Walk around the classroom and seek support for your resolution from other delegates.
- You may promise support for another in return for support for your own resolution.
- You may alter the language of your proposal to gain more support.
- You'll need a simple majority to pass your resolution – a tie means failure!

Vote

- After the Unmoderated Conference, the Chair will call for votes on each resolution asking for a show of hands. If a proposal receives support from more than half of the delegates, it is added to the Declaration.

Wrap-Up

- Class discussion: What did you learn from the Conferences and Vote process?