**Section 2 – Declaring Independence**

1. Troops and Taxes

* American colonist had grown use to doing things their own way
* **French and Indian War** (1754-1763)
* Bloody and expensive decade long war
* British government begins to tax the colonists to help pay for the war
* **Sugar** (1764) **& Stamp Taxes** (1765) –
* Results in political protest – **“No taxation without representation”**
  + **Coined by James Otis (1764)**
* Both Acts are repealed
* **Townshend Acts** (1767) **–**
* **“Boston Massacre”** (1770) –
* Results in widespread protest and the repeal of the Townshend Act (1770)
* Left a small tax on tea to symbolize British power
* **Boston Tea Party** (1773) –

B. Intolerable Acts

* Britain’s punishment of the colonies – Quartering Act
* Closed Boston Harbor
* No longer allowed Massachusetts to govern itself

C. Bring the Paine

* Many Americans resented British interference
* Most never considered declaring independence – Most colonists still considered the war as an attempt to resist British tyranny
* **Thomas Paine –**
* Written at the level of the common person
* Mocked British King George III, and blamed him for all of the colonies problems
* Went against nature for an island to rule a continent
* America’s only option was to declare its independence from Great Britain
* **“It is not in numbers, but in unity that our great strength lies” – Thomas Paine**

D. Declaration of Independence

* **Thomas Jefferson –**
* Declares the reasons why the 13 colonies wanted to separate from Great Britain
* **July 4, 1776 –**

**Declaration’s Main Arguments**

* 1) Rights of people are based on natural laws
* 2) Compact of government existed between the colonists and the king
* 3) If government deprives people of their natural right people have the right to abolish the government
* 4) The King had violated this compact on repeated occasions
* 5) Declaring independence