**Thomas Jefferson & *The Declaration of Independence***

**Before reading:**

Define the following words.

1. Impel
2. Arbitrary
3. Inalienable
4. Transient
5. Usurpation
6. Formidable
7. Candid
8. Expunge
9. Abdicate
10. consanguinity
11. Opprobrium
12. Tyranny
13. Magnanimity
14. Renounce
15. Acquiesce

**During reading:**

***NOTE: The underlined passages were part of Jefferson’s original document. They were removed after Congress objected to their tone or wording. What you are reading is the original before revisions were made (see! Even Jefferson had to revise!!). Both John Adams and Ben Franklin helped to make these revisions.***

**Provide an explanation for each question.**

1. What is the purpose of the 1st paragraph?
2. Why does Jefferson use parallelism in the 2nd paragraph?
3. What appears to be the overall main idea of each paragraph beginning with “He…” (also an example of parallel structure).
4. Find 2 examples of loaded words on page 119.
5. Based on the omitted paragraph from page 122, what seems to be Thomas Jefferson’s opinion of slavery?
6. Skim the underlined sections once again. Why do you think Congress omitted these sections from the final draft?
7. What persuasive appeal dominates the *Declaration*?

**After Reading:**

The central theme of the Declaration is freedom. Jefferson considers the concepts of “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness” to be “self-evident” and “inalienable.” Despite this, it can be argued that America has still not achieved the original mission of the Declaration. Provide one example from modern society that shows this conflict and explain how this individual’s or group’s freedom is at stake.