



Handout 1

A Critical document:

1. Lincoln began his Gettysburg Address with the _____
2. The Declaration of Independence is our Nation's _____
 - The Declaration is our statement of _____
 - The Constitution is our _____
 - The Declaration established _____ of government
 - The Constitution established _____ of government

Critical Concepts:

Critical concept 1: "They did not want to _____"

Jonas Clark, pastor in Lexington, MA, Apr 19, 1776: "... the connection of America with Britain ... might have been preserved inviolate to the end of time. And it may be added, that there is no just ground to suppose, that it would have ever entered the heart of Americans, to have desired a dissolution of so happy a connection with the Mother-Country, or to have sought independence of Britain, had they not been urged, and even forced upon such an expedient, by measures of oppression and violence, and the shedding of innocent blood."

Abraham Keteltas, Black Robe preacher in NY, NJ, CT, MA, and member of NY Provincial Congress, 1777 sermon: "... all our assemblies ... have endeavored, by the most humble and earnest petitions to the throne, to prevent the fatal war, which now rages and desolates our land. ... and it was not until every pacific measure failed, and our petitions were scornfully treated, and rejected, and a powerful fleet and army had actually invaded us and shed our blood; that we took up arms, in behalf of our lives and liberties."

Critical concept 2: "We hold these _____ to be _____"

Critical concept 3: "The Laws of _____ and of _____"

Two of the most influential men concerning the origins of law and the purpose of government were:

"Man, considered as a creature, must necessarily be subject to the laws of his _____, for he is entirely a _____ being ... And consequently, as man depends absolutely upon his _____ for everything, it is necessary that he should in all points conform to his Maker's _____."

"This will of his Maker is called the _____ ... The doctrines thus delivered we call the _____ or _____ law, and they are to be found only in the _____ ... no human laws should be suffered to _____ these."

Blackstone Commentaries on Law, Book 1, Section 2, 1753