**Literature and Composition 3 - Personal Declaration of Independence**

Learning Target: **Write an argument to support claims using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.**

The Declaration of Independence is the ultimate break-up letter. Using many examples and sound reasoning to show how Britain’s control ultimately equaled unmerited abuse, the document provides an argument for why the thirteen colonies should sever ties with Great Britain and become an independent nation.

Your task is to create your own Declaration of Independence – essentially a breakup letter in which you create an argument for independence from someone or something. Use the sample breakup letters as guides. Format your letter the same way with the five sections:

* **Preamble** – Explain why you’re writing – what’s your purpose? Why are you declaring independence?
* **Statement of beliefs/declaration of ideal relationship** – What do you believe to be the ideal relationship/situation? Why? Describe the actual situation.
* **List of complaints** – List at least five. (Keep going if you have more!)
* **Statement of failed** **efforts** – State what you have done to try to fix the relationship. What did you try before deciding you needed to declare independence? Include at least three things. Why haven’t these things worked?
* **Official formal declaration of independence** – Make it official (see models).

Consider what you will declare independence from:

* A friend
* A family member
* A significant other
* A boss or your place of employment
* A store
* A city
* Your car
* Your wireless provider
* A TV show
* Texting/cell phone
* Facebook, twitter, or any other social network or web site
* Cupcakes, cookies, chips, pizza . . . any other food weakness
* Flappy Bird, Trivia Crack . . . any other game or app that you might spend too much time on

*You get the idea!*

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| **Assessment** | | |
| **Areas that need work** |  | **Areas of strength** |
|  | **Purpose/Organization (10)**   * Purposeful introduction (preamble) effectively…   + Engages reader’s attention   + Provides context   + Makes a claim   + Previews argument or suggests path to the argument * Argument is purposefully arranged in a logical, compelling fashion for the reader by following the organizational format of the model – all five sections present * Creates an effective conclusion (official formal declaration of independence) that reinforces the claim and states that the decision to “break up” is final |  |
|  | **Development/Elaboration (30)**   * Supports argument with sufficient and relevant reasons/examples * Word choice persuades the reader to accept the writer’s argument |  |
|  | **Conventions (10)**   * Nearly flawless conventions (emphasis on our recent language studies) |  |

**Total: /50**