Paraphrasing
A **paraphrase** restates someone else's ideas in simpler words. To paraphrase a passage, determine its main idea and replace difficult words with easier ones. As you read the Declaration of Independence, select one passage and write it above the chart below. In the first column of the chart, write each difficult word in the passage. In the second column, write an easier word that can replace each difficult word. On the lines that follow the chart, write a paraphrase of the entire passage.

**Passage:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Easier Word</th>
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**Paraphrase:**

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Parallelism
The use of similar grammatical forms or sentence patterns to express ideas of equal importance is called parallelism. Parallelism generally makes both written and spoken expression more precise and powerful. On the diagrams below, record three different sets of parallel phrases that you find in the Declaration of Independence. One example has been done for you.

Follow Up: Find examples of parallelism in modern political speeches or advertisements.
Declaration of Independence (page 270)

Words to Know SkillBuilder

Words to Know

| abdicate | arbitrary | impel | insurrection | mercenary |

A. Decide which Word to Know belongs in each numbered blank. Then write the word on the blank line at the right.

Once there was an unusual king. He did not follow all the laws. On a whim, he might decide to jaywalk. Such (1) decisions confused people.

People tired of the king's actions. They wanted the king to give up the throne and turn it over to a sensible citizen. But the king did not want to (2).

Citizens wondered what would force the king to resign. What would (3) him to give up the throne?

After considering several ideas, the people decided to revolt. One day they staged an (4) and the king was thrown out of the castle.

The unemployed king decided to become a professional soldier. He worked for the governments of foreign countries. Being a (5) wasn't ideal. Still, it was a living.

B. Choose a Word to Know that matches each definition below. Write the word on the blank.

1. to drive forward; force
2. a revolt
3. a professional soldier who works for hire in a foreign country
4. to give up responsibility for
5. marked by whim or personal judgment rather than laws

C. Imagine that you are writing a letter to Thomas Jefferson. Suggest an idea that you would like to add to the Declaration of Independence. Use at least two Words to Know in your letter.

58 Unit Two From Colony to Country
Declaration of Independence (page 270)

Selection Quiz

Read over the questions below and think about the Declaration of Independence. Then answer each question in one or two sentences.

1. What is the purpose of the preamble?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

2. According to Jefferson, when do people have the right to alter or abolish a government?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

3. According to Jefferson, what, in general, do the colonists object to about the way laws are made and enforced in the colonies?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

4. According to Jefferson, what have the colonists done repeatedly each time they felt that they had been wronged?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

5. What does the last part of the document say about the colonies’ relationship with Great Britain?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
**Declaration of Independence (page 270)**

**Selection Test**

**A.** Think about Jefferson's uses of parallelism in the Declaration of Independence. Then read the excerpt below. In the first column, underline the parallel phrases. Then, in the other columns, write notes explaining what ideas are connected by the parallel phrases and the overall effects of the parallelism. (8 points each)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Parallel Phrases</th>
<th>2. Ideas Being Connected</th>
<th>3. Overall Effect</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nor have we been wanting in our attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them, from time to time, of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity; and we have conjured them . . . to disavow these usurpations. . . .</td>
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**B.** Write the letter of the best answer. This exercise is continued on the next page. (6 points each)

1. According to the Declaration, a government should derive its power from
   a. the politicians.
   b. the educated class.
   c. a carefully selected few.
   d. those it governs.

2. The Declaration states that it is right to overthrow a government when it
   a. becomes a strong central government.
   b. becomes a weak central government.
   c. no longer represents the people.
   d. is obvious that political change is needed.
3. The ultimate goal of the Declaration of Independence was to
   a. plead with the British not to declare war.
   b. absolve the colonies of any allegiance to Britain.
   c. ask the British to grant some powers to the colonies.
   d. force the British to deal with the colonies' complaints.

**C. Words to Know.** Write the letter of the best answer. (4 points each)

1. To **impel** a man to testify in court means to
   a. ask him.     b. arrest him.     c. force him.

2. An **arbitrary** ruler is **most** likely to have
   a. unlimited power.    b. strong allies.    c. religious faith.

3. When King Edward VIII **abdicated** the throne in 1936, he
   a. resented it.     b. took office.     c. gave it up.

4. A **mercenary** is a soldier who serves for
   a. patriotism.     b. payment.     c. glory.

5. An **insurrection** is a
   a. surrender.     b. rebellion.     c. compromise.

**D. Answer one** of the following questions based on your understanding of the Declaration of Independence. Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. (20 points)

1. Jefferson stated that the king of Great Britain had long worked toward "the establishment of an absolute tyranny over these states." What had the British government done that seemed oppressive and unjust to the colonists?

2. Before the American Revolution, how did the American colonies try to settle peacefully their differences with Great Britain? Use examples from the Declaration to support your answers.

**E. Linking Literature to Life.** Answer the following question based on your own experience and knowledge. Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. (18 points)

The Declaration of Independence states that "all men are created equal." Do you think this is true? Do citizens of the United States live as if this statement were true? How might you change the wording of this sentence if you had an opportunity to do so? Why?