

# Olive Branch Petition - 1775

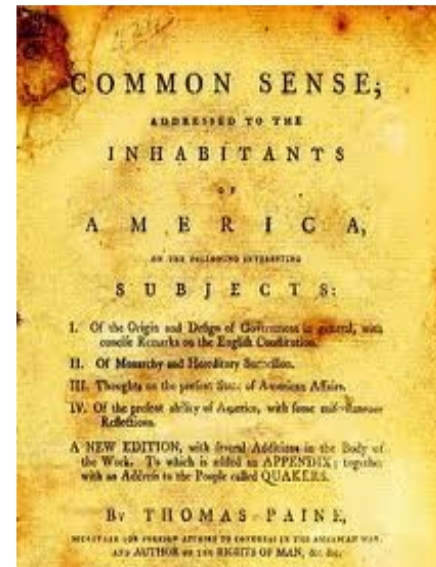


- John Dickenson drafted in July of 1775 a petition asking for rights to be sent to the King
- It was an attempt to assert the rights of the colonists while maintaining their loyalty to the British crown.
- Last attempt to avoid revolution.
- King George refused to read the petition.
- Patriots became very angry at his refusal.

<b>Colonist Perspective</b>	<b>British Perspective</b>

# Common Sense – 1775-76

- A pamphlet (50 pages) written by Thomas Paine (500,000 copies were sold)
- Raised support for independence
- Called the King a Royal Brute. Did not think the colonies needed a king. **The law was our king.**
- It said there was no advantage to being part of Britain
- Paine said our goods would fetch higher prices without English involvement.



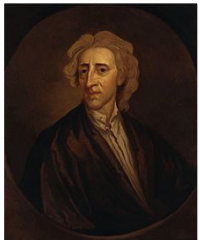
Colonist Perspective	British Perspective

# July 2, 1776



## Declaration of Independence

- The Continental Congress asks a committee to draw up a statement they can vote on. Jefferson is on the committee and writes the Declaration of Independence.
- Explains to other nations why America needs to break away from the British
  - Natural Rights of Man – Life, liberty, & pursuit of happiness
  - Social Compact Theory - To Secure these rights, government is created by man
  - The Right To Revolution – When government becomes destructive it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it.



# Divided into 4 parts

**PREAMBLE** - Introduction and purpose

**DECLARATION OF NATURAL RIGHTS** -  
Philosophy behind the document

**GRIEVANCES** - (27 complaints)

**RESOLUTION OF INDEPENDENCE** -  
Announcement of independence  
from England to the world

