

THREE LEVEL STUDY GUIDE

“The Autobiography: The Declaration of Independence” by Thomas Jefferson

Name _____ Date _____

Before reading pages: In the space to the left of each statement, place a check mark (✓) if you agree or think the statement is true.

During or after reading: Add new check marks or cross through those about which you have changed your mind. Keep in mind that this is not like the traditional “worksheet.” You may have to put on your thinking caps and “read between the lines.” You must use the space under each statement to note the page(s), and paragraph(s) where you are finding information to support your thinking. Correct any incorrect statements so that this worksheet serves as a study guide.

Literal: Information stated directly in the reading

_____ 1. Thomas Jefferson’s father was a modest farmer.

_____ 2. Thomas Jefferson did not have a former education and was only trained to care for his family’s small farm.

_____ 3. After attending the College of William and Mary, Jefferson became a lawyer and member of the Virginia House of Burgesses.

_____ 4. Jefferson’s political career included being governor of Virginia, minister to France, secretary of state, vice president, and president of the United States.

_____ 5. Jeffersonian democracy included the belief in creating a strong central federal government that told the states what to do.

_____ 6. The main idea of the Declaration of Independence is that the King of England should allow free press and freedom of religion in the colonies.

_____ 7. Jefferson supports his main argument by making a case against the institution of slavery.

_____ 8. Jefferson emphasizes that the colonists want guidance from the British Parliament.

Inferential: Reading between the lines, not directly stated

____ 9. According to the Declaration of Independence, colonists are at odds with their current government because the whole notion of a king is upsetting to them.

____ 10. The line which states “we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor” is an example of **parallelism**.

____ 11. In parallelism, conjunctions are always linked by conjunctions.

____ 12. Jefferson did not care that Congress deleted passages from his original draft.

____ 13. Jefferson believes it is important to show how the original version of the Declaration of Independence was amended because he is not sure which is better.

**Application/Opinion: Information that can be applied in other situations/topics-
Make sure your answers are appropriate and non-offensive.**

____ 14. Every kind of liberty we enjoy should be balanced with responsibility. Why or why not?

____ 15. Jefferson should have fought to keep his indictment against the slave trade in the Declaration of Independence to show consistency in his ideas of equality and freedom. Why or why not?

____ 16. Freedom can bring both gains and losses. Why or why not?