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### THE CHARGES

(What the King did)

Read aloud all paragraphs in the Declaration beginning with “He” or “For”.  
[Skousen pages 138-141]

Ask the group Skousen questions 12-15 pertaining to the Charges.  
[Skousen page 24]

Optional: The drafters of the Constitution made sure to combat each of the charges against the King spelled out in The Declaration. On page 28 Skousen shares each way this was done in the section titled, “Making King George III Unconstitutional”.

As each charge is read aloud in your group you can share the section of the Constitution that relates to it. If this proves to be to cumbersome you may opt to skip this section.

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### DEFENSE

(What the Colonists did)

Read aloud Declaration paragraphs beginning with “In every stage..” and “Nor have We...”.  
[Skousen pages 141-142]

Ask the group Skousen questions 16-19 pertaining to the Defense section.  
[Skousen pages 24-25]

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### DECLARATION

Read aloud the last paragraph of the Declaration.  
[Skousen page 142]

Ask the group Skousen questions 20-22.  
[Skousen page 25]



### CONGRATS

You’ve finished the Declaration of Independence! Not only that but you helped a group of your fellow Americans become stronger citizens. With an understanding of this founding document you are more empowered to defend the principles upon which our country was founded and stand for liberty!



### WHAT COMES NEXT?

Now that you understand the reasons that compelled us to declare independence you’re ready to study the form of government we established by way of the Constitution.

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# THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE



For our Republic to survive we must understand the documents on which it was founded.

## MEETUP MATERIAL

- “How to Read the Constitution & The Declaration of Independence” by Paul B Skousen

Each participant will need a copy of the Constitution and Declaration of Independence but only the Facilitator needs to have a copy of Skousen’s book. For group members who find they want a copy it can be purchased on Amazon.

If needed, additional pocket Constitutions can be purchased for about \$1-2 on Amazon.

## MAKE IT YOUR OWN

As a Facilitator you are welcome to use additional materials from Skousen’s book which we do not incorporate into outlines.

Instead of seeing the founding documents as simply words from the past, it is good to discuss how their principles are reflected in our current society. Beyond the questions provided by Skousen, feel free to ask your group time and again how they see these things applying in our current day.

Each Meetup outline will point you to the relevant section of Skousen’s book for discussion questions. We encourage individual adaptation and supplementation in your group.



## SCHEDULE

Your group can meet as often as you would like. Consider suggesting an every other week or once a month schedule to your group then find what works best for everyone.

Meetups can take place at any time of day so work with your group’s availability.

Some groups choose to add in snacks, desserts or even meals to their Meetups.



## OUTLINES

Each of the six sections can be it’s own discussion and, depending on group participation, may take more than one Meetup to cover. Take your time with the material, there is no need to rush.

Generally, each section includes a portion to read aloud and discussion questions. You can have a single designated reader or participants can take turns reading. If questions come up while reading, take time to discuss them. Reference the Glossary on page 179 of Skousen’s book for definitions of lesser known words.

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## INTRODUCTION

### WHY DID THEY WRITE IT?

Read aloud pages 7-8 of “How to Read the Constitution”.

This section is not particularly long. You can have one person read it in its entirety or pass the book around and break it up by paragraph.

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## THE PREAMBLE

Read aloud paragraph one of the Declaration of Independence.  
[Skousen page 137]

Ask the group Skousen questions 1-5 pertaining to the Preamble.  
[Skousen pages 22-23]

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## ASSERTION

Read aloud paragraph two of the Declaration of Independence.  
[Skousen pages 137-138]

Ask the group Skousen questions 6-11 pertaining to the Assertion.  
[Skousen page 23]