# READING LIKE A HISTORIAN



## Declaration of Independence (8.1.2)

### Background:

The Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776. Historians disagree as to whether the colonial leaders were motivated by selfish or ideological reasons.

#### Prompt:

Why did the Founders write the Declaration of Independence?

#### Task:

In a well thought out response:

- Write a thesis in response to the prompt.
  - Your thesis must address the multiple perspectives on why the Founders wrote the Declaration of Independence.
- Use the prompt as a sentence stem.
- Write an explanation of your thesis based on conclusions reached from reading the documents.
- Be sure to explain both the claims of historians and the evidence they use to support their arguments.