Interpreting the Declaration of Independence

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| Their Words: | Your Words: |
| *“When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another.”* | “dissolve the political bands”  ***Get rid of the government***  What group of people want to “dissolve the political bands?”  ***Patriots***  Who have they been connected with?  ***Great Britain*** |
|  | What does “self-evident” mean?  ***Obvious***  What is the important truth that Thomas Jefferson is writing about?  ***That all men are created equal***  Do you agree with this truth? Why or why not?  ***Answers will vary*** |
|  | “endowed by their Creator”  ***Given, inherited***  unalienable – ***can’t be denied***  What are these rights?   1. ***Life*** 2. ***Liberty*** 3. ***Pursuit of Happiness***   Which right do you consider the most important?  ***Answers will vary*** |
| Their Words: | **Your Words:** |
|  | “deriving their just powers”  ***Where they get their jobs/power***  “consent of the governed”  ***The people must approve***  Who is meant by “the governed?”  ***The people, the colonists***  How do you think a king would feel about this type of government? Why?  ***Not good. Giving up power to the people.*** |
|  | When a government begins to destroy life, liberty, and happiness, what can the people do?   1. ***Change or get rid of the government*** 2. ***Form a new government***   What new government did the colonists form?  ***The United States of America***  What would you do if the government began to destroy your rights?  ***Answer will vary.*** |
|  | What is despotism?  ***Evil control***  What are some specific abuses on the long train?   1. ***High taxes*** 2. ***No trial by jury*** 3. ***Quartering Act***   What should the people do with this type of government?  ***Get rid of it and create a new one*** |