

SS.7.C.1.4

Analyze the ideas (natural rights, role of the government) and complaints set forth in the Declaration of Independence.

Main influence for Thomas Jefferson: John Locke

Natural rights

Life, liberty, property (and you are your own property, hence:
"pursuit of happiness")

They're God-given ("unalienable") not given by the king
government exists to protect your rights

If government doesn't, it has broken the social contract

In that case, the people have the right to change the
government

Declaration of Independence has a long "List of Grievances" (complaints)

Jefferson described many ways the colonists' rights had been
denied