**1) Based on the following quote, what can we infer about the author’s purpose in writing the Declaration of Independence?**

“When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume, among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and nature’s God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to separation.

**2) The Preamble sets the tone for the entire Constitution. Does the Preamble prove to be powerful? Persuasive? How does this set the stage for the rest of the document? Cite specific evidence to show this.**

“We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence,promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

**3) Compare and contrast the differences between the following amendments. Discuss why the American authors might have chosen the specific language features they did. What was their purpose?**

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| **American Bill of Rights** | **English Bill of Rights** |
| Amendment ICongress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances. | Whereas the late King James the Second, by the assistance of divers evil counsellors, judges and ministers employed by him, did endeavour to subvert and extirpate the protestant religion and the laws and liberties of this kingdom;That it is the right of the subjects to petition the king, and all commitments and prosecutions for such petitioning are illegal;That the freedom of speech and debates or proceedings in Parliament ought not to be impeached or questioned in any court or place out of Parliament;By causing several good subjects being Protestants to be disarmed at the same time when papists were both armed and employed contrary to law; |

**4) Evaluate Paine’s use of rhetorical features (ethos, logos, and pathos) in the following excerpt. Is there one particular appeal that he leans on more than others in this work? What’s the purpose of making appeals in this way?**

“Neither have I so much of the infidel in me as to suppose that He has relinquished the government of the world, and given us up to the care of devils; and as I do not, I cannot see on what grounds the king of Britain can look up to heaven for help against us; a common murderer, a highwayman, or a housebreaker, has as good a pretense as he….My own line of reasoning is to myself as straight and clear as a ray of light. Not all the treasures of the world, so far as I believe, could have induced me to support an offensive war, for I think it murder; but if a thief breaks into my house, burns and destroys my property, and kills or threatens to kill me or those that are in it, and to ‘bind me in all cases whatsoever’ to his absolute will, am I to suffer it?”

**5) Patrick Henry’s Speech to the Second Virginia Convention is short and to the point, yet full of emotional appeals. How does he use allusions to appeal to his reader? Are these effective for his argument? Is he convincing? Engaging? What EVIDENCE in the text points you to this?**