

‘The Declaration of Independence Song’: Helping over 20,000 of America students fill a serious gap in their understanding of America’s founding freedoms

by Jack Boyd, Founder and Director, DeclarationSong.org, © August, 2009

In a time where America’s interest in our constitutional government is growing, many are asking whether Americans possess the knowledge necessary to participate wisely in the affairs of the nation.

“The strength of America’s constitutional democracy comes largely from the informed and active participation of its citizens,” according to a statement from the US Department of Education.

However, a recent study by the [Intercollegiate Studies Institute](#) (ISI) shows that most Americans and even recent college graduates are failing in their understanding of the fundamental features of American self-government and America’s heritage.

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator, with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”
--- The Declaration of Independence

In recent ISI studies, seventy-one percent of Americans failed the test, with an overall average score of 49%. In a survey of college students in 2006 and 2007, the average college freshman scored 51%, and the average senior scored 54%.

To help correct this problem, a number of states have created special curriculum to help educate America’s students. Celebrate Freedom Week, instituted by state legislatures in Texas, Florida, Arkansas and Oklahoma is designed to help students focus on the importance of the Declaration of Independence and the freedoms expressed in this important historical document.

The ‘Declaration of Independence Song’ was born out of necessity when my daughter Steffy came home from school with a 4th grade homework assignment to learn the preamble of The Declaration of Independence. When the typical memory techniques failed, our family put the words to music and wrote a fun sing-along. The sing-along helped Steffy learn the words quickly and ‘The Declaration of Independence Song’ was born.



Steffy recorded the song when she was 11 years old. Today, Steffy is 21 and over 20,000 students across America have sung the sing-along. Teachers and parents have enjoyed the free resources on our website, ‘www.declarationsong.org,’ to help them teach their students.

Will you help? Please download our free sing-along for your students. Buy the full-length song on the CD for a teacher and support your local schools during Celebrate Freedom Week and during the rest of the school year.