Main ideas of the Declaration of Independence:

1. When it becomes necessary to get rid of one’s government, you must explain why you are doing so.

2. The colonists considered it to be clear to everyone that all men are created equal and that God has given them certain basic rights that can not be taken away.
   a. These basic rights include life, liberty (freedom), and the right to do whatever makes them happy.
   b. Governments are built for the sole purpose of protecting these basic rights.

3. Governments are given their power by the people they govern (i.e. you cannot rule without the consent of the people.)

4. If a government becomes corrupt, the people have a right to change or get rid of it and put in place a new government.
   a. Governments should not be gotten rid of for small or unimportant reasons.

5. In the case of the colonies, they have put up with years of abuse and misuse of power, and they therefore have the right to overthrow the British government and to establish their own government in its place.

6. The King of England has a long history of abusing power…[the colonists then went on to list the ways in which King George had abused his power and hurt them.]