**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Thinking Critically about This Reading**

What, according to the Declaration of Independence, is the purpose of government?

**Questions for Study and Discussion**

1. In paragraph 2, Jefferson presents certain "self-evident" truths. What are these truths (**five** of them), and how are they related to his argument? Do you consider them self-evident?
2. The Declaration of Independence is a **deductive argument**; therefore, it can be presented in the form of a *syllogism*. What are the major premise, the minor premise, and the conclusion of Jefferson's argument?
3. Major Premise:
4. Minor Premise:
5. Conclusion:
6. The list of charges against the king is given as **evidence in support** of Jefferson's minor premise. Does Jefferson offer any evidence in support of his major premise?
7. Where in the Declaration does Jefferson use **parallel structure**? (see the definition and examples on page 139) Identify TWO additional and different examples. What does he achieve by using it (what is the effect?)
8. Although the basic structure of the Declaration reflects sound **deductive reasoning**, Jefferson's language, particularly when he lists the charges against the king, tends to be *emotional* (pathos). Identify as many examples of this emotional language as you can, and discuss possible reasons for why Jefferson uses this kind of language.