

Planning Your Declaration Conversation Event

The *Declaration Conversation* is a dynamic presentation that features live readings and a facilitated group discussion of the Declaration of Independence. The fun, one-of-a-kind event has two parts. First, a facilitator provides an overview of the events leading up to 1776 and the signing of the declaration. Then, the event continues with an interactive exploration of the Declaration of Independence. Preselected audience members will read parts of the Declaration of Independence out loud and the entire group will engage in a facilitated discussion of the Declaration of Independence.

Supplies Needed

- **Copies of the Declaration of Independence.** Humanities Kansas will mail these to you before the event.
- **Script** for readers containing excerpts from the Declaration of Independence
- **Laptop and PowerPoint**
- **Microphone**

Choose a Planner

A *Declaration Conversation* event coordinator recruits readers, downloads the reader scripts, knows how to set up and use the microphone or other tech equipment needed, publicizes the event, and makes sure copies of the Declaration of Independence are available for audience members at the event.

Set Up for the Event

The room should have a podium for the facilitator and six chairs for the readers. The readers can remain in the audience until after the facilitator's presentation. Then, when it's time to do the readings, they can move up to the front of the room. There needs to be at least one microphone centrally located so readers can step forward to read their parts. There also needs to a computer, projector, and screen set up for the facilitator's PowerPoint demonstration.

Choose readers

The planner will need to recruit six readers to read portions of the Declaration of Independence out loud at the event. Each reader will be assigned a role as Reader 1, Reader 2, Reader 3, and so on. The selection should be done in advance and a copy of the Declaration of Independence given to the readers for practice. A practice run-through with all of the readers is encouraged. Readers should be comfortable using a microphone and speaking in front of a group. You might think about people who serve as readers at their church, teach, or others who enjoy public speaking.

At the event

Each audience member should receive a copy of the Declaration of Independence. The facilitator opens the event with a PowerPoint presentation of events leading up to the Declaration of Independence. Readers read excerpts from the Declaration of Independence, which is then followed by the facilitator moderating questions and comments.