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Welcome to AP United States History. You made a great choice! To begin our journey, we will look at the seminal document that breathed life into our republic and continues to give direction to it, The Declaration of Independence. You'll want to begin by reading that document carefully, refreshing your memory on the circumstances surrounding its issuance. Then, carefully read the documents that were directly inspired by the Declaration of Independence, listed below. Research the circumstances surrounding their creation in preparation for writing an essay response to the prompt that follows. Reference the rubric for directions and scoring criteria.

Your **typed and printed out** essay is due on the first day of the 2025-2026 school year and constitutes your first grade. I hope you have a terrific summer and I look forward to working with you next year. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Kindest regards,

Mr. Willard

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Prompt: Evaluate the following documents to determine the extent to which each was consistent with the natural rights philosophy that produced the Declaration of Independence. In your response, be sure to discuss the historical context of each document as well as its purpose.

[\(A\) The Workingmen's Declaration of Rights, 1829](#)

[\(B\) Declaration of Sentiments of the American Anti-Slavery Convention, 1833](#)

[\(C\) Declaration of Sentiments at Seneca Falls, 1848](#)

Additional Resources:
[Natural Rights Philosophy](#)
[Declaration of Independence](#)

15 Points	10 Points	5 Points
1. The <u>thesis paragraph</u> offers a coherent, original, and sophisticated response to the prompt and entirely addresses all specified facets of the question.	1. The <u>thesis paragraph</u> offers a Coherent, original response to the prompt and addresses most of the facets of the question.	1. The <u>thesis paragraph</u> offers an original response that is on topic but may not completely address the question.
2. Ample <u>context</u> is presented individually for all three of the documents, clearly situating them within their specific historical eras and the circumstances in which they were produced.	2. <u>Context</u> is presented for all three of the documents, situating them within their specific historical eras and the circumstances in which they were produced.	2. <u>Context</u> is presented for the documents, situating them within their specific historical eras.
3. Well-developed commentary identifying the <u>purpose</u> of each document is thoroughly conveyed, citing ample evidence.	3. Commentary identifying the <u>purpose</u> of each document is conveyed, citing some evidence.	3. Commentary identifying the <u>purpose</u> of each document is conveyed, citing some evidence.
4. <u>The Natural Rights Philosophy</u> embodied in the Declaration of Independence is thoroughly defined and consistently referenced throughout the essay.	4. <u>The Natural Rights Philosophy</u> embodied in the Declaration of Independence is defined and referenced in the essay.	4. <u>The Natural Rights Philosophy</u> embodied in the Declaration of Independence is addressed in the essay.
5. The <u>composition</u> of the essay is coherent and cites specific evidence from the documents in support of strong argumentation aligned with the thesis.	5. The <u>composition</u> of the essay is coherent and cites documents in support of the thesis.	5. The <u>composition</u> of the essay is mostly coherent and acknowledges the documents.

Each criterion is worth 15 points, for a total of 75 points.