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## Brainstorm Key Words

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**Task:** Practice the reading comprehension strategy: “Brainstorm Key Words”

**Course Context:** In *Nonfiction Reading Strategies* Rebekah O’Dell shares this inter-disciplinary inter-reading-level strategy for vocabulary comprehension in nonfiction texts. Try the Brainstorm Key Words strategy and see how it impacts *your* reading experience!

The text we’re going to study is a primary source you might be familiar with, [\*The Declaration of Independence\*](#).

**Steps:**

1. **Before reading the text**, set a timer for [one minute](#) and brainstorm a list of words that you feel might be significant or related to the text’s topic.
2. Read the text, and as you read, look for these words in the text.
3. **After reading**, revise your original list using the guiding questions below:
  - a. Do I see the words I anticipated? (If so, leave these on your list! If not, strike through them.)
  - b. Do I see synonyms or different phrases that have approximately the same meaning as the words I anticipated? (If so, add these to your list!)
  - c. What other words felt significant and important as I read? (Add these to your list!)
4. Reflect:
  - a. You’re already a savvy adult reader. Even so, what impact did this strategy have on your understanding of the text?
  - b. What did you notice about the way you read when you were anticipating key words?
  - c. What did you notice about the list you made – and revised? How did this deepen your comprehension? How might it help your students?



<i>The <u>Declaration of Independence</u></i>	
Key Word Brainstorm <b>before</b> Reading	Key Words Added <b>after</b> Reading
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<p>Were there any words in the text that surprised you, or that you didn't know the definition of without context? If so, define those here:</p>	

