



Foundational U.S. Documents Analysis

Today's Standard

11-12.RI.9 - Analyze seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth-century foundational U.S. documents of historical and literary significance (including The Declaration of Independence, the Preamble to the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address) for their themes, purposes, and rhetorical features.

Cues	Notes
What are the themes of The Declaration of Independence?	The Declaration of Independence emphasizes themes of liberty, equality, and self-governance.
What is the purpose of the Preamble to the Constitution?	The Preamble to the Constitution outlines the purposes of the Constitution, including establishing justice and ensuring domestic tranquility.
What rhetorical features are used in Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address?	Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address uses rhetorical features such as parallelism, antithesis, and allusion to convey its message.

Summary

Analyzing foundational U.S. documents helps students understand their historical and literary significance, themes, purposes, and rhetorical features, which are still relevant today.