Varieties of Radical Dissent:: Declaration Preliminary

The "rough draught" of the Declaration of Independence as written by Thomas Jefferson underwent significant revision before it was approved by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. By comparing the "rough draught" with the ratified version you'll gain greater insight on the argument of the Declaration and on the revision process. You'll also come to some new thoughts about the Founding Fathers, no doubt.

The Task:
Read both the "rough draught" and the revised document and then compare the two versions side by side. Complete two levels of comparison: descriptive and evaluative.

Descriptive
1. Underline changed sections in the revised document as you find them.
2. Now, make a list of every change you find. Use a table or some other organizational scheme to keep things straight. Note the paragraph number and whether text was added, changed, or cut.

Evaluative
1. Now, apply some analysis by pursuing some of these questions in a single paragraph:

What kinds of changes are made in the revision of the Declaration of Independence?
Why were these changes made?
What effect were the delegates trying to create?
How do the changes affect the argument of the Declaration?