**Answer the following questions to help you determine if a scandal exists.**

1). According to John Locke, who gives the King and government the power to rule?

2). What does Jefferson mean when wrote “government are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed?”

3). Please do the following:

 a. Under the “social contract” what is the role of the government?

b. What can the people do if the government does not fulfill this role?

4). Underline the part of the Declaration of Independence where Jefferson states the answer to 3 b.

5). Do you think Jefferson plagiarized Locke or was just very influenced by him? Explain.

Perhaps no other individual influenced the author of the Declaration of Independence more than John Locke. But the question remains: did the author of the Declaration of Independence Thomas Jefferson copy Mr. Locke.

John Locke was a British philosopher who rejected the idea that Kings had a divine right (god given right) to rule. Instead, Locke developed a theory based on the argument that people are the source of government’s power; an idea known as “popular sovereignty.”

John Locke’s Theory

 He argued that people are born with certain “natural” or “inalienable” rights. These rights include the right to “life, liberty and property.” Government did not give people these rights because people are born with them and as such, no government can take them away.

 According to Locke, people formed governments to protect their natural rights. People enter into what is known as a “social contract.” Under this contract, people agreed to obey the government who in return, had the responsibility to protect people’s natural rights.

 Locke also argued that if the government failed to protect our natural rights, then the people had the right to replace or overthrow the government.

John Locke’s arguments are published in the essay The Second Treatise of Government which Thomas Jefferson seems to know quite well. Take a look at the following excerpt from the newly signed Declaration of Independence.

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute a new government.

**Did Thomas Jefferson plagiarize? Is there really a scandal? Read the following to find out.**