

THIS IS MY COUNTRY

On the following pages, I have assembled a collection of quotes from Founding Fathers, Presidents and prominent Americans. For me, they are words of wisdom and of courage that represent a shared vision. If we are willing to inherit their legacy, we then must understand their messages of inspiration.

Your assignment is to first do a little research. Using a 3X5 card, copy the quote and the person credited with saying it on one side. Next, on the other side of the card give me a few sentences about who this person was (is). This will give you some insight into the last part of the assignment. In this section I would like you to interpret this quote. I want you to tell me what it means to you as well as what you thought it meant during the lifetime of this person. You might mention any historical significance the quote had during that period in history. This should all be very succinct and must fit on one standard 3X5 card. If you choose one of the poems or alternate assignments from class this may be completed in your journals.

“Our country right or wrong. When right, to be kept right; when wrong, to be put right.”

Carl Schurz, 1899

”He that would make his own liberty secure must guard even his enemy from oppression”

Thomas Paine, 1795

“We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately.”

Benjamin Franklin, 1776

“To preserve the liberty of our nation ought to be our only emulation, and he will be the best soldier, and the best patriot, who contributes most to his glorious work, whatever his station, or from whatever part of the continent, he may come.”

George Washington, 1776

“I regret that I have but one life to lose for my country.”

Nathan Hale, 1776

“The less government interferes with private pursuits, the better for the general prosperity.”

Martin Van Buren, 1837

“Too many people are thinking of security instead of opportunity. They seem more afraid of life than death” James F. Byrnes, 1949

“The business of government is to see that no other organization is as strong as itself; to see that no body or group of men no matter what their private interest is, may come into competition with the authority of society.”

Woodrow Wilson, 1916

“I know no safe depository of the ultimate powers of society but the people themselves, and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform them of their discretion by education.”

Thomas Jefferson, 1820

“Where liberty dwells, there is my country.”

Benjamin Franklin, 1785

“We will not forget that liberty has here made her home, nor shall her chosen altar be neglected.”

Grover Cleveland, 1886

“Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it.”

Thomas Paine, 1783

“Individuals themselves, each in his own personal and sovereign right, entered into a compact with each other to produce a government: and this is the only mode in which governments have a right to arise, and the only principle on which they have a right to exist.”

Thomas Paine, 1785

“One of the fundamentals that has made America what it is today is our willingness to tear down and rebuild with the new and better, usually the bigger. To promote obsolescence is to accelerate progress.”

Alfred P. Sloan, 1936

“Democracy is that form of society, no matter what its political classification, in which every man has a chance and knows that he has it.”

James Russell Lowell, 1884

“To the humblest and the poorest among us are held out the highest privileges and positions.”

Abraham Lincoln, 1864

“We believe, as asserted by the Declaration of Independence, that all men are created equal; but that does not mean that all men are or can be equal in possessions, in ability, or in merit; it simply means that all shall stand equal before the law.”

William Jennings Bryan, 1896

“The only true charity you can give a man is the opportunity to help himself.”
Brigham Young, 1848

“The soldier, above all other people, prays for peace, for he must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war.”
Douglas MacArthur, 1962

“The first requisite of a good citizen in this republic of ours is that he shall be willing to pull his own weight.” Theodore Roosevelt, 1902

“The meaning of our word AMERICA flows from one pure source. Within the soul of America is the freedom of mind and spirit in man. Here alone are the open windows through which pours the sunlight of the human spirit. Here alone human dignity is not a dream but a major accomplishment.”
Herbert C. Hoover, 1948

“The government of the United States of America is a device for maintaining in perpetuity the rights of the people.”
Calvin Coolidge, 1924

“I am only one,
But still I am one.
I cannot do everything,
But I can do something:
And because I cannot do everything
I will not refuse to do
The something I can do.”
Edward Everett Hale, (1822 – 1909)