

Patriotic Essay Contest

Bravery, coupled with honor and pride are just a few of the most important characteristics that were needed to jump start a more bright and prosperous future in our ever-growing nation. Our most beloved historical documents, including the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, quite legitimately are the most important documents involving the official establishment of the United States as an independent nation. With these masterfully finessed archives, Americans became role models for other countries suffering from tyranny. The Declaration and the Constitution not only established the independence of our nation, but laid the groundwork for non-conformity and enduring natural rights for every citizen.

From the early stages of childhood, some of us were endowed with the understanding that the fourth of July is a very significant holiday in which we celebrate with eye-catching fireworks, barbeque, and family traditions in the American heritage. But more importantly, some do not fully grasp the historical significance of Independence Day-the very reason we're "the land of the free, and the home of the brave." Equality. The personal understanding of the meaning of equality is essential as it is used to further the meaning of "self-evident truths". Furthermore, the reason that the Declaration of Independence is so important is because it represents the essence of why nations should need to be free- to seek happiness and possess self-determination. It is highly likely that the Declaration is perhaps the most dutifully and "masterfully written state paper of Western civilization" because of its unique combinations of general principles and government theory, resulting in an enduring nation. (S.E. Lucas)

"We the people, in order to form a more perfect union..."-presumably the most recognizable phrase to the beginning of any historical document in the U.S. - was written shortly after the Declaration was put into action. In my opinion, the Constitution was a continuation of the Declaration's principles associated with the theory of "natural rights". I also find that it was based on two unalienable concepts: recognizing that no person has the right (whether that be legal or underground) to rule over another without his or her consent; the second, expressed that we are "endowed by [our] Creator with certain unalienable rights"- our right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." And with these endowments, it would be nearly impossible to strip an American citizen of these inherent truths. In addition, some may take these ideas for granted nowadays, for 250 years ago, many of these "self-evident truths" were by no means obvious.

The Constitution and the Declaration were both inspired by famous philosophers of that time. But the philosopher that may not be directly quoted or commonly used that widely practiced his ideas was Plato. It is Plato's Allegory of the Cave that is extremely significant in these cases because the authors of both legal agreements, (along with some contributors) bestowed upon the common mass that every man was created equal and was born with unconditional natural rights. The authors in these cases as well, are similar to the enlightened man that had the chance to see the blinding, yet availing light. Some, of course would rather kill instead of hearing what they see as ridiculous (in this score, going to war). These men have all proved to be courageous.

In conclusion, the everyday use of these documents has ultimately helped to bring justice and administer order throughout the nation. Common operational society would not be what it is today without the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution available for referral, for it has brought many of us together as Americans and more importantly, as human beings. We owe every contributor to each document a sincere and substantial debt of gratitude.