

Handouts:

Name _____

Date _____

Class _____

Directions: Working with your partner or group members, examine the quotes and summarize the quote in your own words. Then answer the question: "What were Thomas Jefferson's beliefs on the role of government?"

Essential Question: What were Thomas Jefferson's beliefs on the role of government?

Say Quote/Excerpt	Mean Briefly paraphrase in your own words	Matter What does this quote demonstrate about Jefferson's beliefs on the role of government?
I am not a friend to a very energetic government. It is always oppressive. From a letter to James Madison 20 Dec. 1787		
Of liberty I would say that, in the whole plenitude of its extent, it is unobstructed action according to our will. But rightful liberty is unobstructed action according to our will within limits drawn around us by the equal rights of others. I do not add "within the limits of the law," because law is often but the tyrant's will, and always so when it violates the right of an individual. From a letter to Thomas Jefferson to Isaac H. Tiffany, 1819.		

Essential Question: What were Thomas Jefferson's beliefs on the role of government?

Say Quote/Excerpt	Mean Briefly paraphrase in your own words	Matter What does this quote demonstrate about Jefferson's beliefs on the role of government?
<p>"We have spent the prime of our lives in procuring [young men] the precious blessing of liberty. Let them spend theirs in shewing that it is the great parent of science and of virtue; and that a nation will be great in both always in proportion as it is free." [5]</p> <p>From a Letter to Joseph Willard (March 24, 1789)</p>		
<p>"Our attachment to no nation upon earth should supplant our attachment to liberty."</p> <p>From 1775 June 26-July 6. (<i>Declaration of the Causes and Necessity for Taking Up Arms</i>)</p>		

Essential Question: What were Thomas Jefferson's beliefs on the role of government?

<p>Say Quote/Excerpt</p>	<p>Mean Briefly paraphrase in your own words</p>	<p>Matter What does this quote demonstrate about Jefferson's beliefs on the role of government?</p>
<p>During the contest of opinion through which we have passed the animation of discussions and of exertions has sometimes worn an aspect which might impose on strangers unused to think freely and to speak and to write what they think; but this being now decided by the voice of the nation, announced according to the rules of the Constitution, all will, of course, arrange themselves under the will of the law, and unite in common efforts for the common good.</p> <p>From Jefferson's First Inaugural Address</p>		
<p>[A] wise and frugal Government, which shall restrain men from injuring one another, shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned.</p> <p>From Jefferson's First Inaugural Address</p>		

