

## Position Papers (7)

<p>I am a member of the Republican party and enjoy celebrating the Declaration of Independence written by "the immortal Jefferson." We Republicans are the defenders of the American Republic of 1776 against subversion by pro-British "monarchists." We hope that by recalling the causes of independence, we can make our fellow citizens wary of further dealings with Great Britain. We are delighted to identify the founding principles of the American Revolution with those of America's sister republic in France. At our Fourth of July celebrations we read the Declaration of Independence, and our newspapers reprint it.</p>	<p>I am a Federalist. Members of our party have played major roles in the struggle of our people for independence from Great Britain. We served bravely and loyally in the Continental Congress and army under George Washington's leadership to win the American Revolutionary War. While the Declaration of Independence lit the initial spark for freedom, it has been the Federalist Party that has kept the flame of freedom strong and burning brightly in the hearts of Americans. But celebrations of our independence must not dwell on former grievances and differences with Great Britain. Instead, these festivities should now celebrate our unity as a nation and strong leadership in the world, which is based on close economic and diplomatic relations with other nations, including Great Britain.</p>
<p>I am a patriot who fought in the American Revolutionary War. I believe that the Fourth of July should be celebrated since it establishes the right of the people to alter or abolish their government whenever it no longer derives its powers from the consent of the governed. This is why we rebelled from England. Celebrating the Fourth of July reminds us of our right to enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.</p>	<p>I was a Loyalist during the American Revolutionary War and oppose celebrating the Fourth of July. I was forced to move to Canada and lost all of my property because I supported the English monarchy. Where is my equality? Where is my pursuit of happiness? This holiday is a celebration for only the winners, not the losers.</p>

Abolitionist Frederick Douglass from his speech: "The Meaning of July Fourth for the Negro."

Fellow-citizens, pardon me, allow me to ask, why I am called upon to speak here to-day? What have I, or those I represent, to do with your national independence?

Are the great principles of political freedom and of natural justice, embodied in that Declaration of Independence, extended to us?

I say it with a sad sense of the disparity between us. I am not included within the pale of glorious anniversary! Your high independence only reveals the immeasurable distance between us. The blessings, in which you, this day, rejoice, are not enjoyed in common. The rich inheritance of justice, liberty, prosperity and independence, bequeathed by your fathers, is shared by you, not by me. The sunlight that brought light and healing to you, has brought stripes and death to me. This Fourth July is yours, not mine. You may rejoice, I must mourn.

I am John Adams, and I wrote this to my dear wife Abigail on July 3, 1776:

The second of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, and ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forevermore.

I am William Gordon. I often gave orations in celebration of July Fourth in the late 1700s. I was the first American to write narratives of the American Revolution. I wrote a four-volume work called *The History of the Rise, Progress and Establishment of Independence of the United States of America*, published in 1788. I chronicled the struggle for independence and I want more people to accept the Republican ideals of Thomas Jefferson.