



The United States Declaration of Independence - Historical Movements

\$1,000 Scholarship Essay 2026

The United States Declaration of Independence, adopted on July 4, 1776, announced the American colonies' separation from Great Britain and established the nation's founding principles, including the belief 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."

Throughout American history, the United States has often struggled to fully uphold these ideals. Many historical movements have worked to expand rights and freedoms and to help the nation better reflect its founding principles for its citizens.

Identify and discuss three (3) historical movements that sought to expand rights and freedoms in the United States. For each movement:

- Explain its primary goals or demands.
- Describe key individuals, events, or actions associated with the movement.
- Discuss its impact on the rights and freedoms Americans enjoy today.

Conclude by explaining how these movements helped the United States move closer to the ideals expressed in the Declaration of Independence.

This scholarship is open to any high school senior female who resides in and attends public, private, or homeschool in Harford County, and who plans to attend college or qualified trade school in the fall of 2027.

Essay Requirements

- Essay must be original work; it will be run through AI; only 20% AI is allowed.
- Recommended length: 750–1,000 words
- Typed, double-spaced, 12-point font, Times New Roman
- Word documents only
- On a separate cover page, please include your name, address, phone number, email, the high school you attend, the college or trade school you are planning on attending in the fall of 2027, and the major you plan on studying.
- Be sure to cite current and historical examples supporting your work; cite your references.

Please email completed essays to **HCRWgroup@gmail.com** on or before October 16, 2026. Late entries will not be accepted. The winning essay will receive \$1,000. The winner will be notified at the end of October and will be required to be present at the November 21, 2026 luncheon hosted by the Harford County Republican Women's Club to receive the check and award.

Questions may be sent to **HCRWgroup@gmail.com**.



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REPUBLICAN WOMEN**

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and Elected Officials
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