

Resource Sheet #03

Source: Thomas Jefferson in the *Declaration of Independence, 1776*

“... We hold these truths to be self-evident, 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...”

Document Analysis:

1. In your opinion, who is Thomas Jefferson referring to in the Declaration of Independence when using the term “all men?”
2. According to Jefferson, who provided the people with their inalienable rights?
3. Does Jefferson mention slavery at all in this document? In what context?
4. How could this document be used to argue that Jefferson supported slavery?
5. How could this document be used to argue that Jefferson opposed slavery?