



Center for
Civic Education

Powerful Messages



“With liberty and justice for all”

From where do you
recognize this phrase?

“With liberty and justice for all”

This can be found in the Pledge of Allegiance. While it was originally written as a poem in 1892, it did not become the version we recite today until 1954.

Our current version of the Pledge of Allegiance reads:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.





**“We hold these
truths to be
self-evident,
that all men are
created equal”**

From where do you
recognize this phrase?

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal”

This phrase can be found in the Declaration of Independence, written by Thomas Jefferson in 1776.

The second paragraph of the Declaration reads:

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.



**“Give me your
tired, your poor,
your huddled
masses
yearning to
breathe free”**

From where do you
recognize this phrase?



“Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free”

This is a line from the poem titled, *The New Colossus*, by American poet Emma Lazarus. She wrote the poem in 1883 as a way to raise funds for the construction of a pedestal for the Statue of Liberty. The poem was cast onto a bronze plaque and mounted inside the pedestal's lower level in 1903.





“We the People”

From where do you
recognize this phrase?

“We the People”

These three words open the Preamble of the Constitution of the United States. These three words show that the Framers felt the power of the United States rests in the hands of the people.

The Preamble reads:

We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our posterity do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.
