

# Quotes about Democracy

Make one copy of this paper. Cut out the individual quotes. Give one quote to each of eight students. As volunteers read the quotes, discuss with the whole group the meaning of the quote as it relates to democracy and civic responsibility.

*"The US Constitution does not guarantee happiness, only the pursuit of it. You have to catch up with it yourself."*

Franklin, Benjamin Printer, Author, Scientist, Diplomat and Promoter of Collective Voluntary Action (1706-1790)

*"The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants. It is its natural manure."*

Jefferson, Thomas 3rd President of the United States (1801-1809)

*"The essence of Government is power; and power, lodged as it must be in human hands, will ever be liable to abuse."*

Madison, James 4th President of the United States (1751-1836)

*"Democracy is based upon the conviction that there are extraordinary possibilities in ordinary people."*

Fosdick, Harry Emerson Minister (1878-1969)

*"Democracy is never a thing done. Democracy is always something that a nation must be doing."*

MacLeish, Archibald American poet and public official (1892-1982)



*"Democracy is the most demanding of all forms of government in terms of the energy, imagination, and public spirit required of the individual."*

Marshall, George American general (1880-1959)

*"Man's capacity for justice makes democracy possible, but man's inclination to injustice makes democracy necessary."*

Niebuhr, Reinhold American religious and social thinker (1892-1971)

*"The government is us; we are the government, you and I."*

Roosevelt, Theodore 26th President of the United States (1858-1919)

