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we the  
people  
**in order  
to form**

a more  
perfect  
union



discover... investigate...  
**participate**

*Our Documents: A National Initiative on American History, Civics, and Service* Our Documents is an initiative of National History Day and the National Archives and Records Administration in cooperation with USA Freedom Corps.



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*America has never been united by blood or birth or soil. We are bound by ideals that move us beyond our backgrounds, lift us above our interests and teach us what it means to be citizens. Every child must be taught these principles. Every citizen must uphold them. And every immigrant, by embracing these ideals, makes our country more, not less American.*

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

JANUARY 20, 2001

# Our Documents: A National Initiative on American History, Civics, and Service

To learn more about how you, your school, or your community can participate, visit the project web site at [www.ourdocuments.gov](http://www.ourdocuments.gov)

or contact:

National History Day at  
301-314-9739

[info@nationalhistoryday.org](mailto:info@nationalhistoryday.org)

National Archives and Records Administration at  
[education@nara.gov](mailto:education@nara.gov)

**WE** invite all Americans to participate in a series of events and programs to get us thinking, talking, and teaching about the rights and responsibilities of citizens in our democracy. These initiatives include workshops, town meetings, competitions, and votes for students, teachers, parents, and the general public.

**This initiative is a cooperative effort among:**

**National History Day,**

a nationally acclaimed education program that promotes the study of history among the nation's students and teachers. National History Day is encouraging students and teachers to use the 100 milestone documents in their projects and lessons, with the hope that doing so will strengthen classroom study of the nation's heritage. To find out more, go to

[www.nationalhistoryday.org](http://www.nationalhistoryday.org).

**National Archives and Records Administration,**

a federal agency whose mission is to preserve and make available to the public the permanently valuable records of our government. The National Archives is making 100 milestone documents of American history available on the Internet with accompanying teaching materials and is inviting the public to vote on the 10 most important documents in American history. To find out more, go to

[www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov).

**USA Freedom Corps,**

a White House Coordinating Council created by President George W. Bush to help foster a culture of service, citizenship and responsibility in America's communities.

To find out more, go to

[www.usafreedomcorps.gov](http://www.usafreedomcorps.gov).

**OUR DOCUMENTS National Vote.** Starting on Constitution Day, September 17, all Americans will be able to vote on what they have found to be the 10 most significant documents in American History. Write in your favorite documents or choose from the list of the 100 milestone documents provided by the National Archives. Whole schools can get involved in this discussion and then vote at [www.ourdocuments.gov](http://www.ourdocuments.gov).

*U.S. News and World Report* is sponsoring the national vote by creating a special issue detailing these milestone documents. The commemorative issue will provide a paper ballot for the national vote and be available on newsstands starting September 15. Go to [usnews.com/vote](http://usnews.com/vote) for more information or to vote for your top 10 documents.

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