

**Critical Response #1:
Discussion Questions for Jefferson's Declaration of Independence**

1. What does Jefferson say about women? Is there any way you can determine his views from reading this document? Does he appear to favor a patriarchal system?
2. In what ways does the king's desire for stable government interfere with Jefferson's sense of his own independence?
3. Jefferson defines the inalienable rights of a citizen as "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." Do you think these are indeed inalienable rights? Or put another way, to what extent do you think these are inalienable rights?
4. Is the Declaration of Independence a document declaring a state's (i.e. a government's) independence or that of the individual? Why/why not?
5. How would Jefferson protect the individual against the whim of the state or the state against the whim of the individual?