

Robert P. George
**The Declaration of Independence
and the Concept of Liberty**

OPENING THE CONVERSATION

1. George distinguishes between “freedom from” and “freedom for.” Which idea stood out most to you, and why?
2. What idea or argument from this essay stayed with you after reading?

CLOSE READING AND INTERPRETATION

3. How does George define liberty in relation to virtue and character?
4. What did the Founders mean by the “pursuit of happiness” in this context?
5. How does this understanding differ from more modern interpretations of liberty and happiness?

EXPLORING TENSIONS

6. If liberty is oriented toward moral ends, who determines those ends?
7. How does this understanding of liberty shape the role of government and the individual?

REFLECTION AND APPLICATION

8. Where do you see this understanding of liberty reflected—or not—in American life today?
9. What role does self-government play in personal and civic life?

CLOSING REFLECTION

10. How might this understanding of liberty shape the way we think about citizenship today?