



# *Jane Kamensky* Jefferson, Adams and the Crucible of Revolution

## OPENING THE CONVERSATION

1. Kamensky explores the relationship between Jefferson and Adams. What stood out most to you?
2. What idea or moment from the essay stayed with you?

## CLOSE READING AND INTERPRETATION

3. What does it mean when Adams writes that they should “explain ourselves to each other”?
4. How does Kamensky describe the role of disagreement in their relationship?
5. What does their exchange reveal about the founding generation?

## EXPLORING TENSIONS

6. How is explanation different from debate or persuasion?
7. What makes this kind of civic dialogue difficult to sustain?

## REFLECTION AND APPLICATION

8. Where do you see opportunities for this kind of exchange today?
9. How might this model strengthen civic culture?

## CLOSING REFLECTION

10. What does this essay suggest about civic friendship in a democracy?