



Jeffrey Rosen “One People”

OPENING THE CONVERSATION

1. Rosen presents competing visions of “one people.” Which vision initially resonated most with you, and why?
2. What idea or argument from this essay stood out most to you?

CLOSE READING AND INTERPRETATION

3. How does Rosen distinguish between Jefferson’s vision of a union of states and Hamilton’s vision of a unified nation?
4. How have these competing interpretations shaped American history?
5. How does the Constitution attempt to balance these two visions?

EXPLORING TENSIONS

6. Are these visions in tension, or can they coexist productively?
7. What are the risks of emphasizing national unity? What are the risks of emphasizing local or state identity?

REFLECTION AND APPLICATION

8. Where do you see this debate playing out in American life today?
9. What does it mean to be “one people” in a diverse constitutional democracy?

CLOSING REFLECTION

10. How might understanding these competing visions strengthen civic dialogue?