

Potential Document Based Essay Questions:

- Using multiple documents as evidence, craft an essay in which you argue whether Thomas Jefferson was instrumental in the development of political parties in America.
- Should Thomas Jefferson be revered and admired as a political figure in the early years of the Republic?
- Did Jefferson and his political colleagues set a good example for future politicians to follow when it came to political discourse?
- Evaluate the validity of the following statement: Thomas Jefferson was an honest politician.
- Write an essay in which you use these sources to make an argument about the type of personality that Jefferson had.

Further Learning:

- Instruct students to find a news article on a political dispute that currently exists. Ask them to write a response or have a discussion in which they compare how our politicians behave today to how our politicians behaved in the early years of our government.
- Ask students to do further research into Jefferson's life, examining writings from earlier and later periods. Also encourage students to research non-political aspects of his life, such as his life at Monticello and his beliefs on slavery. Ask students whether or not what they have learned about Jefferson from the lessons in these documents are consistent with other things that they learn about him.