

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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## The Most Powerful Tool

**Task:** Read the Thomas Jefferson quotes below. Analyze each quote and create an interpretation of what each quote is saying. After you've read, analyzed, and interpreted each quote, complete the sentence stem at the bottom of the page to determine what Jefferson believes is the most powerful tool for creating change.

1. *“Bigotry is the disease of ignorance, of morbid minds; enthusiasm of the free and buoyant. Education and free discussion are the antidotes of both. We are destined to be a barrier against the returns of ignorance and barbarism.”* - Thomas Jefferson to John Adams (Monticello, August 1, 1814)

**Interpretation:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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2. *“if a nation expects to be ignorant & free, in a state of civilisation, it expects what never was & never will be. the functionaries of every government have propensities to command at will the liberty & property of their constituents. there is no safe deposit for these but with the people themselves; nor can they be safe with them without information. where the press is free and every man able to read, all is safe.”* - Thomas Jefferson to Charles Yancey (Monticello, January 6, 1816)

**Interpretation:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. *“Cherish therefore the spirit of our people, and keep alive their attention. Do not be too severe upon their errors, but reclaim them by enlightening them. If once they become inattentive to the public affairs, you and I, and Congress, and Assemblies, judges and governors shall all become wolves.”* - Thomas Jefferson to Edward Carrington (Paris, January 16, 1787)

**Interpretation:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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4. *“the people of every country are the only safe guardians of their own rights, and are the only instruments which can be used for their destruction.”* - Thomas Jefferson to John Wyche (Monticello, May 19, 1809)

**Interpretation:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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5. I believe Jefferson thinks that the the greatest tool to create change is \_\_\_\_\_  
because \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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