

## Declaration of Independence Discussion Questions:

Jefferson says “*all men are endowed by their **Creator** with certain unalienable **Rights**, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness,*” and that, based on “*the **Laws of Nature** and of **Nature's God**,*” colonies have the right to establish their own countries.

1. If you take “God” out of the equation that Jefferson uses, on what basis do men have “**rights**?”
2. Where do rights come from?
3. Why do we have **laws**?
4. On what basis (or bases) can we/should we make laws?
5. What is **justice**?
6. What conditions must exist for a law to be just?
7. If it is unjust, are we obligated to obey it? Obligated to disobey it?
8. What does “right to life,” used by Jefferson, mean? Has there been, or is there now, any group or class of humans denied that right?
9. Is/was America a “religious” or Christian nation?
10. Did the founding fathers make a mistake in relying on God as a defense of their rebellion and establishment of a separate nation?
11. What issues today are constitutional “hot buttons” about which we argue? How do they relate to the Declaration of Independence?