

# Equality

The ideal: the U.S., according to Lincoln, is dedicated to the proposition of equality

The reality: Equality is:

- The most complex value
- Having least agreement
- In which we have made least progress

What does equality mean? (See Reading #1)

- Similar < Equality < Identity
- Differences in a characteristic or along a certain dimension that are not considered significant

Necessity and benefits of *inequality* for human flourishing

- Endemic social driver
- Source of progress in civilization

Helpful ways to categorize and measure the levels of Equality and Inequality

- Three primary realms
  - Social
  - Economic
  - Political
- Four primary arenas
  - Status
  - Resources
  - Opportunities
  - Outcomes
- The Resulting 3 x 4 matrix

The ideal of equality in the U.S., as seen in our foundational documents

- Declaration of Independence: What did Jefferson mean in declaring “all men are created equal”
  - The blind spots, intolerance, and bigotry of the Founders
  - The truly revolutionary aspects of their assertions
- Constitution: What was its original stance on and contributions to equality?
- Gettysburg Address: A new birth of freedom? Or of equality?

Equality of Concern as an Object of Government

Continuing Concern with Equality in the U.S.

Interdependencies and tradeoffs (see Reading #2)

- Of the three primary values: order, liberty, and equality
- Of the three realms of equality: social, economic, and political equality

Priorities of the values among the major political ideologies (see Reading #3)

Equality today:

- Where do we stand: current challenges
  - Social equality
  - Economic equality
  - Political equality
- Importance for our future

Implications for your new Preamble