

What Makes America Great?

Innovation, imagination, integrity. These seemingly random words evoke the spirit of America, the very same spirit that makes America the great nation it is today. A nation of thinkers and creators and migrants of every ethnicity and every creed, America is the land of a diverse people bonded by a collective drive to advance and succeed, to create and express, and to advocate and unite. Alone, each of these ideas exemplify the American spirit well enough, but together, these words enhance each other in a way that makes each more effective than they are alone, just as the unity of the American people makes each of us stronger and greater than we would be without it.

Innovation, the action of transforming, exemplifies the power of the America, the power to advance and revolutionize and grow for the benefit of all. Throughout history, American scientists and engineers have revolutionized their fields and improved the quality of life of Americans and the world alike. From Thomas Edison and Alexander Graham Bell to Steve Jobs and Bill Gates, America has produced some of the world's most influential inventors in electricity and technology. Without innovation, a nation has no opportunity to advance, to better the lives of its people. The innovations created by American inventors have improved medicine, environmental technology, space exploration, and a multitude of other fields all aiming to better the planet and all those who live on it. America's expansive power of innovation allows it to be the great nation it is today because we as a nation are revolutionary. It is in the very backbone of America to revolutionize because that is how the nation came into being, by revolution. As a country founded by a successful revolution, it is no wonder that revolutionary innovation and advancement are an integral part of the American spirit. American is a great nation because

Americans as a people are able to use what we are given to transform our lives and advance the world.

Imagination, the action of forming new ideas, has been the basis for the success of the American people and has shaped the nation into the great nation it is today. The imagination of the founders formed the documents that continue to shape our legal system. The imagination of the nation's artists, musicians, and actors has turned our major cities into world centers of entertainment from the theatre district in New York City to the cinematic stronghold of Hollywood. The motivating factor behind immigration to our great nation is the allure of the American Dream, an ideal that stems from the imagination of each and every person that crosses our borders. Without imagination, the America's greatest innovation would never have come to fruition because even the brightest inventor would be unable to put many of those ideas into action without a spark of great imagination. The imagination of the American people has turned our country into a global stronghold of innovation and creativity.

Integrity, a value commonly associated with honesty, describes a state of unity and solidarity, and this sense of unity, or integrity, is the reason why the United States has become and remains a beacon of light in this world. This country, while it almost always seems to be divided in one way or another, is a country that exists because its founders strived for one goal: improving the quality of life of themselves and their fellow colonists. Our nation was built on solidarity and standing up for one's beliefs no matter the the strength of the opposition. No matter how divided the country seems on the surface, Americans prove time and time again that it takes nothing short of a civil war and secession to truly divide our nation. From divisive wars to today's polarizing political climate, we as a nation have faced events that should be enough to

leave us in tatters, but these events are never enough to do so. We always emerge stronger as a people. The strength and sense of unity that is present in every American makes America great.

The greatness of America is not measured by its imagination alone or by its integrity alone or even by its innovations alone. The greatness of America is measured by these three ideas in accordance with each other because they would be incapable of depicting just how incredible our nation is alone, just as the only the whole of the American people can represent the ideals and values of the nation. Both definitions of integrity are required to enhance the impact of imagination and innovation because without honesty, there is little to distinguish between stolen ideas and inventions and genuine work and thus the appreciation for inherently genuine works is tainted. Without the unity of ideas, the innovations born from imagination would decrease in impact because every idea can be improved by the collaboration of other thinkers and creators who all work toward one goal. If the founders did not have the same unifying goal of founding this nation, they never would have been able to set aside differences and work together. America is a great nation because of the collaborative, uniting nature of our country that enhances the drive to advance and create that is present in every single American.