

Breathing Free? Changing the Constitution



The Declaration of Independence,
Adopted on July 4th 1776

« We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness »

Unalienable /ʌn'eiʃənəbəl/ : cannot be taken away
Endowed /ɪm'daʊd/ : to be given something

Section 3 : ... it shall not be lawful for any freedman, free negro or mulatto to intermarry with any white person ; not for any person to intermarry with any freedman, free negro or mulatto ; and any person who shall so intermarry shall be deemed guilty of felony, and on conviction thereof shall be confined in the State penitentiary for life...

Black Codes Mississippi, 1865

Freedman /fri:d,mæn/: a former slave

Mulatto /mju:'lætəʊ/ : non-offensive : person of mixed race

Deem : consider

Felony /'felənz/ : a serious crime

- ✓ Read the documents about the [Civil War and Reconstruction](#) carefully then read the 2 law documents above.
- ✓ Discuss the common points and contrasting elements: what does it reveal about American society? (*write about 150 words, in your exercise book*).
 - Use several of the following discourse markers to express contrast and similarities:
*contrary to / unlike / in contrast with / neither / however / compared to / conversely...
both / like / similarly / in the same way / as well ...*
 - **Great vocabulary to help you explain the contradictions:**
*look down upon
be beneath/above sb
inferiority/superiority complex
be deprived of one's rights
prevent somebody from doing something
have preconceived ideas about
racial discrimination
turn a blind eye to/on (fermer les yeux sur)*