

“OUR SACRED HONOR” DISCUSSION GUIDE

Introduction: “Our Sacred Honor” was developed from various speeches Rick Santorum gave on the 2012 presidential campaign trail. His speeches often focused on the basic truth that our rights come from our Creator, not government. He often compared the American Revolution and the French Revolution, and talked about how our Founding Fathers were willing to pledge their lives, fortunes and sacred honor for freedom. Let’s get started!



Use these questions to facilitate discussion after your guests have viewed “Our Sacred Honor.”

- 1. George Washington said, “*Government is not reason; it is not eloquent; it is force. Like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master.*” Do you feel we need more eloquence, force or fire in our nation today?**
 - The bigger and more powerful our government becomes, the more fearful and dependent our citizens will be.
 - We need less force and fire from the government, but more force and fire from the American people. Our Constitution provided for our government, but also put in place controls and limits of our government by the people, to protect us from tyranny.
 - The government should be fearful of its people. Thomas Jefferson said it well: “When government fears the people, there is liberty. When the people fear the government, there is tyranny.”
- 2. Rick Santorum explains that the Declaration of Independence is the ‘why’ and the US Constitution is the ‘how’ of our freedom and independence. How does our understanding of this make a difference in our lives and how we view government?**
 - Understanding that our rights come from our Creator, not the government, and knowing that the Constitution was written to provide limits on our government, gives us the responsibility as citizens, to make sure our elected government leaders are held accountable and stay within the founding documents.
 - Government is designed to serve its constituents, not the other way around.
- 3. What did the men who wrote the Declaration of Independence sacrifice? Do any of those sacrifices hit home with you today? How?**
 - The men who wrote (and those who signed) the Declaration of Independence sacrificed their lands, their financial well-being and that of their families, and potentially their lives.
- 4. What was the significance of the French Revolution on Jefferson’s perception of our own fight for independence and the formation of a new government? In what ways can you draw parallels or examples of social engineering within the American culture?**

- Seeing Paris descend into lawlessness with the storming of the Bastille, Jefferson was initially caught up in the enthusiasm of the French Revolution. However, he saw that France would continually resort to concepts of hierarchy classes; Jefferson realized the dangers of social-class warfare and insisted upon American adoption of principles that didn't define people by class.
- France's focus on fraternity and egalitarianism created an 'equality of result' instead of 'equality of opportunity' as we have. In the battle to equalize the classes, the French government promised paradise if one would just surrender liberty and property.

5. How would you define Madison's amendments to the Constitution, as the Bill of Rights or the Bill of Limitations? Why?

- 'Bill of Limitations' may be more accurate because this document specified government's restrictions. It was written not to create, but to preserve rights and lay the blueprints for what government cannot do so to avoid abuses like that of the British monarchy. "It's not tyranny we desire, it's a just, limited, federal government," Alexander Hamilton.

6. What aspects of the Bill of Rights most affect or impact you? Why?

- The Bill of Rights includes...
- Freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition.
- Right to keep and bear arms in order to maintain a well-regulated militia.
- No mandatory quartering of soldiers.
- Freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures.
- Right to due process of law, freedom from self-incrimination, double jeopardy.
- Rights of accused persons, e.g., right to a speedy and public trial.
- Right of trial by jury in civil cases.
- Freedom from excessive bail, cruel and unusual punishments.
- Other unwritten rights of the people exist.
- Powers reserved to the states if not otherwise delegated

7. What can we do at a local level to bring light to our country's digression from the Founding Fathers' literal ideals and their intent within the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution?

- READ these documents. Host your own Our Sacred Honor party and encourage discussion of where our country sits ideologically. Invite a constitutional lawyer to speak to your chapter on the subject. Read about our Founding Father's backgrounds to learn about their values.

8. What is "our sacred honor?" As it is both a challenge and a blessing to do what is necessary, are you prepared to make the sacrifice to maintain liberty? Can you say: "I'm in! Game on!"?

- Our sacred honor is the utmost we can offer on behalf of our country. Such a pledge requires sacrifice, resilience against our adversaries, and action in our communities.