

## Reading “The Idea of America” by Nikole Hannah-Jones

In her essay, Nikole Hannah-Jones writes, “The United States is a nation founded on both an ideal and a lie...‘Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness’ did not apply to fully one-fifth of the country. Yet despite being violently denied the freedom and justice promised to all, black Americans believed fervently in the American creed. Through centuries of black resistance and protest, we have helped the country live up to its founding ideals.”

“The Idea of America” and *The 1619 Project* as a whole challenge readers to reevaluate what we think we know about slavery, its legacy, and the contributions of black Americans to society.

How can we challenge what we’ve learned about our country and, by extension, about ourselves? Use this graphic organizer to track new information and ideas you learn about in Hannah-Jones’ essay, as well as questions that arise.

Three historical facts that surprise you	1.
	2.
	3.
Three quotes that stand out to you	1.
	2.
	3.
Three questions you have about content in the essay	1.
	2.
	3.