



# *Pillars of Culture Foundations*

## Chapter 1, Section 1



### Introduction



**S**tories in this book feature men and women who dared to think of the impossible and try to achieve it. They were often told, “You can’t do that!” But, they did anyway! In fact, they planned, worked, and achieved what they set out to do in spite of ridicule, opposition, and mocking. Persons featured in these *vignettes* illustrate how America’s economic system produced and developed more freedom and products than any other country since nations began recording history. These people *personify* how the combination of capitalism, freedom, and the Judeo-Christian work ethic is superior to any other form of government and economic system. They shaped America and, in doing so, lifted the world!

Some said, “I can do it!” when others declined to *venture* into the unknown. Some experienced capture, torture, and death. They all experienced set-backs, failures, and defeats. Others pursued an idea until it became a machine, path, medicine, book, song, or discovery that changed *culture* and made history. They searched for knowledge, understanding, and wisdom. They learned from the mistakes and achievements of others. They exercised faith, *perseverance*, courage, and *initiative*. Their achievements inspire us to attempt more than we think we can accomplish and, in the process, we can make America great again!

## VOCABULARY

**Vignettes:** short stories

**Personify:** human example

**Venture:** go into

**Culture:** a nation’s ways

**Perseverance:** staying on task through hardship

**Initiative:** take action to solve problems

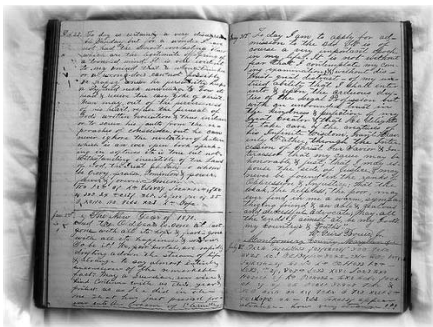


# Pillars of Culture Foundations

## Chapter 1, Section 1 Topics 1-5



### Topic 1 A Challenge to Readers



Almost everyone has felt inspired to jot down ideas that suddenly seemed to “pop into the mind.” More than a few people have awakened at night to grab a pencil and slip of paper to jot down a romantic idea, scientific formula, political concept, or beautiful dream. Such yielding to instant **promptings** to make notes has produced some of the world’s greatest literary works and inventions. At the time of the notetaking, the authors usually had no idea that their “jots and tittles” would someday help millions of people.

Notetaking has always been a skill that shaped history, blessed readers, and produced wonderful songs, poems, documents, and books. In fact, some of the most famous pieces of literary work were inscribed on bottle caps, scrap paper, backs of envelopes, on stone, toilet paper, yellow tablets, and ox-hide parchments. John Bunyan wrote *Pilgrim’s Progress* on paper bottle caps while in a British prison; Moses displayed the Ten Commandments inscribed on stone tablets; Newton, Kepler, Faraday, Pascal, and Einstein developed great scientific theories based on notes recorded in fields, labs, and castles; Martin Luther **ignited** the Reformation from passion-driven notes about man’s relationship with God, priests, and Popes; Francis Scott Key penned the “Star Spangled Banner” on scrap paper while held prisoner on a British ship; Abraham Lincoln wrote the “Gettysburg Address” on the back of an envelope while waiting to speak to a crowd gathered to honor Civil War soldiers; Julia Ward Howe awoke from a dream and said, “I shall lose this (lyrics to “The Battle Hymn of the Republic”) if I don’t write it down.” An educational reformer produced a manual on school choice from notes scribbled on toilet paper; Native Americans preserved their history on stones, trees, deer hides, and cave walls.

## VOCABULARY

**Prompting:** thoughts, hints, ideas

**Ignited:** started

**Meticulous:** detailed, specific, precise

James Madison and Alexander Hamilton made **meticulous** notes on paper while participating in the Constitutional Convention in 1787 — resulting in the marvelous US Constitution that inspired the world to enable people to pursue happiness through freedom of

religious practice, right to defend themselves, to own private property, enjoy the *sanctity* of homes, be tried by a jury of peers, and participate in a government established by the people and for the people. Bill and Gloria Gaither jotted down lyrics on notepads, that later became Gospel songs, sung by thousands of people.



The advantage of keeping a personal journal at home, or using a small notepad or a smartphone, is that ideas, theories, songs, poems, and books, can emerge from thoughts scribbled during the day or night, while sitting on a seashore, near a mountain stream, or in a subway coach on the way to or from home, school, or employment. Some of the greatest concepts have emerged from the minds of normal, “everyday people” who had the insight to make notes when an idea popped into mind. America became great because people took time to jot down ideas, learn new words, and dream dreams.

Throughout this book, words are ***bolded*** to cause you to reflect on vocabulary. So, start taking notes on your dreams, ideas, ***aspirations***, and concepts. While reading these vignettes, pay attention to **bolded words**. In doing that, you will enhance your ability to influence culture. Then you will join the ranks of people who help preserve the American Dream, as did the people whose vignettes appear in this book. You can help make America **Great Again!**

## VOCABULARY

***Sanctity***: safety, privacy

***Bolded***: dark letters

***Aspirations***: life goals

## ***LIFE PRINCIPLE:***

*“Ideas formed in a dream are birthed through words, spoken or written.”*

-Ronald E. Johnson, educator