Essay Title: Our American Heritage and Our Responsibility for Preserving It

Focus Question: How does one’s personal heritage affect one’s duties to our nation?

In order to improve our country’s future, it is necessary for us to understand, study, and preserve our past successes, failures, and traditions. Our founding fathers, through years of violent warfare and rigorous debate, ultimately made it possible for us to live in dignity and prosperity, and we as citizens must honor them by conserving their ideals and contributing to the superior reputation of our country. Our heritage defines us as a society and we, being part of this significant nation, have the crucial responsibility for preserving it.

For over 230 years, hundreds of thousands of immigrants have been entering the United States consumed by the American Dream of success and freedom. Throughout history, and even in present times, America has symbolized the opportunity for free will and independence. Whether from religious discrimination, political persecution, or financial difficulties, immigrants have traveled from different circumstances all over the world to enjoy our liberty and justice. America has been known, and is still known, as the “melting pot” of numerous cultures. Consequently, this melding of traditions and customs has become a considerable part of our heritage. Each citizen has his or her own personal heritage, whether from a foreign country or from an unusual socioeconomic background. However, every person’s title of “American citizen” unites all of us as a nation despite our diverse customs and legacies.

Our duty as citizens is to preserve our American heritage because, as stated previously, our heritage defines who we are as a nation. As the United States is a great
world power today, we must uphold the prominent reputation of our country. A good citizen should exhibit dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism in every situation or circumstance to suitably represent his country. We should proudly display the characteristics our founding fathers labored to uphold: integrity, morality, and loyalty. The founding fathers of our country made it possible for us to have both natural rights, as the Declaration of Independence states that we all have the right to “Life, Liberty, and Pursuit of Happiness”, and civil rights, as the Constitution’s Bill of Rights preserves our most basic privileges. It is necessary for us to maintain these rights as citizens to help preserve the ideals and aspirations our country was built upon. Good citizens must not only attempt to learn and understand our nation’s history and beliefs, but also protect and preserve them for their descendants.

Today, we identify ourselves as African-American, Hispanic-American, Asian-American, but the point is that we are all indeed American. In the end, one’s individual, personal heritage should not affect one’s duties to our nation, because no matter what our backgrounds and traditions are or where we come from, we are all united under one flag. Our heritage is now American. As citizens of the United States, we are responsible for preserving the American Heritage so that future generations can enjoy the freedom, prosperity, and privileges of our nation. Our duty is to gratefully represent our nation as proud, honorable, and loyal citizens of the United States of America.