



WE CALL OUR NATION THE GREAT AMERICAN EXPERIMENT...IT'S TIME TO ACT LIKE IT.

There's much we can learn from the past 250 years of history, and 2026 is an opportune moment for Americans to debrief it, considering what worked and what didn't in search of timeless lessons for the future.

The heart of the initial phase of **IN PURSUIT**, an initiative of **More Perfect**, is a collection of short essays (only 1,250 words) written by some of our nation's most respected historians, journalists, and thought leaders. Each essay will focus on the leadership of an American President or First Lady and will surface practical, accessible lessons we can learn from successes, failures, and challenges that reflect upon the values, ideals and character of our nation.

Extraordinary authors (which include seven Pulitzer Prize winners) who have already committed to the project include: Presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama, First Ladies Hillary Clinton, Laura Bush, and Michelle Obama, Chief Justice John Roberts, Secretary Condoleezza Rice, General Stanley McChrystal, Admiral Bill McRaven, the 14th Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden, the Secretary of the Smithsonian Lonnie Bunch, Jon Meacham, Ken Burns, Geoffrey Ward, Maria Shriver, Annette Gordon-Reed, David Rubenstein, Elizabeth Alexander, Susan Page, David Brooks, Evan Thomas, Steve Israel, Karl Rove, Judy Woodruff, Ann Compton, Richard Norton Smith, Sharon McMahon, Robert Costa, Doug Brinkley, Joseph Ellis, HW Brands, George Nash, Jack Rakove, Danielle Allen, Bret Baier, Lindsay Chervinsky, Drew Faust, Amity Shlaes, Patricia O'Toole, Michael Beschloss, Karin Wulf, David Blight, and Beverly Gage.

American history has become a third rail, and consequently, In Pursuit is a leading nonpartisan national history-based civics initiative planned for 2026. The goal of In Pursuit is to inspire reflective patriotism, while disseminating knowledge about our past relevant for our future.

Drawing on partnerships of More Perfect from **37 Presidential Centers**, the **First Ladies Initiative at American University**, **iCivics**, the **Bill of Rights Institute**, **State Humanities Councils**, and many other like-minded organizations, In Pursuit has a goal of reaching 10 million Americans, including 5 million students. The project begins with a series of essays and is designed to encourage efforts from students, educators, scholars, and leaders across sectors to tap into lessons from the past that can inform our future.

Colleen Shogan, 11th Archivist of the United States, is the CEO of In Pursuit. Co-Chairs of the initiative are **John Bridgeland**, CEO of More Perfect and former Director of the White House Domestic Policy Council for President George W. Bush; **Anita McBride**, Executive Director of the First Ladies Initiative and former Chief of Staff to First Lady Laura Bush; and **Mark Updegrove**, President and CEO of the LBJ Presidential Foundation and ABC News Presidential Historian.