

Equality Quotes for Discussion

Here are some quotations by famous and not so famous people. Read them and tell us what you believe.

From the equality of rights springs identity of our highest interests; you cannot subvert your neighbor's rights without striking a dangerous blow at your own. By Carl Schurz

These men ask for just the same thing, fairness, and fairness only. This, so far as in my power, they, and all others, shall have.

Abraham Lincoln

We will never have true civilization until we have learned to recognize the rights of others. Will Rogers

In America everybody is of the opinion that he has no social superiors, since all men are equal, but he does not admit that he has no social inferiors, for, from the time of Jefferson onward, the doctrine that all men are equal applies only upwards, not downwards. Bertrand Russell

The wisdom of man never yet contrived a system of taxation that would operate with perfect equality.
Andrew Jackson

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.
Abraham Lincoln

Equality may perhaps be a right, but no power on earth can ever turn it into a fact. Honore de Balzac

Equality, rightly understood as our founding fathers understood it, leads to liberty and to the emancipation of creative differences; wrongly understood, as it has been so tragically in our time, it leads first to conformity and then to despotism. Barry Goldwater

All this talk about equality. The only thing people really have in common is that they are all going to die.
Bob Dylan

If any man claims the Negro should be content... let him say he would willingly change the color of his skin and go to live in the Negro section of a large city. Then and only then has he a right to such a claim.
Robert Kennedy

As equality increases, so does the number of people struggling for predominance. Mason Cooley

In order to get beyond racism, we must first take account of race. There is no other way. And in order to treat some persons equally, we must treat them differently.

Harry A. Blackmun

It is better that some should be unhappy rather than that none should be happy, which would be the case in a general state of equality.

Samuel Johnson

Democracy does not guarantee equality of conditions - it only guarantees equality of opportunity.

Irving Kristol

Do not call for black power or green power. Call for brain power. Barbara Jordan

The cry of equality pulls everyone down. Iris Murdoch

I have no respect for the passion of equality, which seems to me merely idealizing envy - I don't disparage envy, but I don't accept it as legitimately my master.

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

All men are created equal, it is only men themselves who place themselves above equality.

David Allan Coe

People are pretty much alike. It's only that our differences are more susceptible to definition than our similarities.

Linda Ellerbee

Real equality is immensely difficult to achieve, it needs continual revision and monitoring of distributions. And it does not provide buffers between members, so they are continually colliding or frustrating each other.

Mary Douglas