

To begin, patriotism is more about a feeling than an action. While people can show their patriotism through their actions, people must feel connected to the idea of supporting their country and must understand what that means. In the article, Reed states, “I subscribe to a patriotism rooted in ideas that in turn gave birth to a country . . . I revere the ideas that motivated the Founders and compelled them, in many instances, to put their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor on the line.” Flying a flag on the front porch and standing for the national anthem are examples of how people can outwardly show their support for America; however, those actions are driven by deeper feelings of reverence, respect, and commitment to country. Knowing that someone gave his life to provide freedom for other Americans represents how powerful that love of country can be for some individuals. Americans should respect the sacrifices that the earliest founders as well as those who are still fighting make in order to provide a better life for each person. In closing, as Reed stated, gestures do not necessarily make a person patriotic; it’s the passion behind those gestures that illustrates the individual’s beliefs.

Further, patriotism is rooted in understanding the ideals outlined in the Declaration of Independence. American founders wrote this document to outline their hopes for the development of a new country. In the article, Reed explains, “Call it freedom. Call it liberty. Call it whatever you want, but it’s the bedrock on which this nation was founded from which we stray at our peril. It’s what has defined us as Americans . . . and makes life worth living, which means it’s worth fighting and dying for.” As a result, the Declaration of Independence provides certain rights for all Americans, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, and religious preference. These rights are at the core of the idea of patriotism because Americans fight to protect these rights on a daily basis. Freedom, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are what Americans strive for and are the embodiment of their patriotic ideals. Therefore, these beliefs represent the American people and encourage even more the love of country.