

CHAPTER 36 ACTIVITY
Analyzing

Directions: Read the excerpt from one of former president Jimmy Carter's speeches. Then answer the questions that follow.

America did not invent human rights. In a very real sense, it's the other way around. Human rights invented America. Ours was the first nation in the history of the world to be founded explicitly on such an idea. Our social and political progress has been based on one fundamental principle: the value and importance of the individual. The fundamental force that unites us is not kinship or place of origin or religious preference. The love of liberty is the common blood that flows in our American veins.

— President Jimmy Carter

1. What does President Carter say about human rights and America?

2. What does he say is the basis of American social and political progress?

3. What does he say unites all Americans?

4. Give examples that show how American society values the individual.

5. What are the problems and benefits of the American system?

6. If you are originally from a different country, compare your country with the United States.

A Supreme Court justice once wrote that the most value of ~~freedom~~ expression is "not free thought for those who agree with us, but freedom for the thought we hate." What did the justice mean by this? Do you agree or disagree?