

NPBA FOUNDATION

ESSAY TOPIC FOR 2019 SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

Almost 40 years after the U. S. Constitution was written at the Philadelphia or Constitutional Convention of 1787, Thomas Jefferson wrote to fellow lawyer Samuel Kercheval on the subject of calling a convention to revise the state's constitution. Jefferson stated that a constitution should be revised every 19-20 years. His timing was based on mortality rates at the time and he reasoned that every generation should be permitted to decide for itself what was best and that each generation should have the right to adapt its government to changing circumstances instead of being ruled by the past. Here's a link to the entire Jefferson letter to Kercheval: <http://www.let.rug.nl/usa/presidents/thomas-jefferson/letters-of-thomas-jefferson/jefl246.php>.

Do you agree with Jefferson that the U. S. Constitution should be rewritten. If so, what would be the first thing you would change and why? If not, why not and what is it that you like most about the U. S. Constitution?