

Liberal

To be liberal is to be free, liber, in the sense that man is free when he is given his own head and told to build. The liberal, whether political or just human, feels that people have the ability to invent lives for themselves, and that the heritage of the past should not dominate the present. The liberal's wife may not wear a papier maché gown to the ball but she won't be bent out of shape if someone else does.

Examples

1 I like to make people feel free and I am at my best when I am free. I am a liberal. But I hate to have people waste their freedom. I don't want my kids confusing texting with writing. I don't want people who don't value my country's values crossing its borders illegally. I want freedom, but freedom that makes sense, freedom from and for something.

2 I have an addiction to the freedom of the open road. I could still walk in jeans from here to Portland. I could cadge meals in rooming houses, dust floors like Roger Miller, sleep on the floor. But when I get to Portland I'd like a framework. I'd like to try riding one of the city bikes. I'd like to see some art.