

# Joseph J. Ellis

## Quotes

*Fire, Believe, Men, Son, Constitution, Chronology, Circles, History, Vietnam,  
Inevitable, Writing, Self, Life Mistakes, Vote, Sin, Mistake, Office, Crush,  
America, Long*

[quoting someone else] the American constitution is a document designed by geniuses to be eventually interpreted by idiots

~Joseph J. Ellis

Lincoln once said that America was founded on a proposition that was written by Jefferson in 1776. We are really founded on an argument about what that proposition means.

~Joseph J. Ellis

Remember sometimes just the rush of having a crush is a temptation, even if it is inappropriate, but beware of playing with fire, you will get burned.

~Joseph J. Ellis

Even in the best of lives, mistakes are made.

~Joseph J. Ellis

Chronology, so the saying goes, is the last refuge of the feeble-minded and the only resort for historians.

~Joseph J. Ellis

Because he could not afford to fail, he could not afford to trust.

~Joseph J. Ellis

And the only thing to do with a sin is to confess, do penance and then, after some kind of decent interval, ask for forgiveness.

~Joseph J. Ellis

Men make history, but they can never know the history they are making.

~Joseph J. Ellis

Washington's task was to transform the improbable into the inevitable.

~Joseph J. Ellis

I would say readers can trust my work more than anyone else's.

~Joseph J. Ellis

...the very notion that a candidate should openly solicit votes violated the principled presumption that such behavior itself represented a confession of unworthiness for national office.

~Joseph J. Ellis

I'm one of those people that believes you should start writing before you think you're ready.

~Joseph J. Ellis

I believe I am an honorable man.

~Joseph J. Ellis

Some models of self-control are able to achieve their serenity easily because the soul fires never burn brightly to begin with.

~Joseph J. Ellis

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