



LET'S TRAIN • CORRECTION

Cross-language contraction • select, combine and reformulate

MODEL TWO-SENTENCE CONTRACTION

By portraying only its heroes, America risks turning its past into a glorified national myth, yet acknowledging its darker chapters does not amount to disrespecting the flag. The Declaration's principles long remained unfulfilled for millions, since even the finest text cannot sustain democracy without citizens' involvement.

WHY THIS VERSION WORKS

- All four source ideas are preserved: selective heroisation, the legitimacy of confronting the past, the Declaration's unfulfilled principles, and citizens' responsibility for democracy.
- The first two ideas are linked through contrast with "yet"; the final two are connected through cause with "since".
- The figurative phrases are reformulated idiomatically: "légende dorée" becomes "a glorified national myth"; "piétiner le drapeau" becomes "disrespecting the flag"; "rester lettre morte" becomes "remain unfulfilled".
- The contraction avoids commentary and examples: it condenses the ideas without adding a personal judgement.

POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE

Showing only national heroes may reduce American history to an idealised myth, whereas facing its darkest episodes is not an attack on patriotism. The Declaration failed millions in practice, because no inspiring document can uphold democracy unless citizens themselves act on its principles.

POINTS TO WATCH

- Do not translate "à force de" mechanically as "by force of": express the cumulative effect through "by portraying only" or "showing only".
- Do not render "faire vivre la démocratie" as "make democracy live": "sustain", "uphold" or "keep democracy alive" is idiomatic.
- The answer must contain exactly two grammatical sentences, even if each sentence combines two source ideas.