Although Cuba gained independence following a United States victory over Spain (textbook page 677), Cuban patriots had been struggling for many years. Their hero was the poet and journalist José Martí (1853–1895). Martí spent many years as a writer in the United States, observing the country (“The Other America”) for his readers in Latin America and the Caribbean (“Our America”). Early in 1895 he returned to fight in Cuba and was killed in battle. The excerpt below is from his 1891 essay called “Our America.”

As you read, notice what Martí believes the people of Spanish America must do. Then, on a separate sheet of paper, answer the questions that follow.

### Questions to Think About

1. What problems does Martí say are occurring in various Spanish American republics?
2. Besides the dangers the Spanish American republics face from within, what does Martí see as the main danger from outside? What does he see as the cause of this danger?
3. Recognizing Ideologies From this excerpt, what do you think were Martí’s feelings toward the United States? Good? Hostile? Mixed? Explain.
4. Activity From an encyclopedia or other source, make a time line of events in the Cuban struggle for independence from the 1860s to the early 1900s. List some heroes besides José Martí.