

Ben Herring

Hand Middle School-Independent

National Heritage Week Essay Contest/ Richland Sertoma Club

What Freedom Means to Me

There aren't enough words to describe all what freedom means to me. The one word "freedom" separates us and the rest of the terror-stricken world, it is the thing that we take for granted each day. The value of freedom in life assures us not to witness the sounds of bombs outside our bedroom door every morning. Then there is America. That is the name of the country that fought for that remarkable chance to obtain that freedom; the country that wasn't afraid to take an optimistic step out of the line of limitations. Freedom means we can step outside every day to breathe fresh air and not air filled with thick ash and gun smoke. To not be ruled over means that we don't have to be limited in our accomplishments. Liberty symbolizes that we can acquire a proper education to some day change the world in our own way.

That is what freedom means. It stands for a country where not the single two year old is over looked as a future president. Our country is seen every day as a symbol; a symbol that individuals from other countries can travel here to America to have a life, and to dream. Dreams; we dream of being professional sports stars, lawyers, and firefighters while in other countries the only dream is that they don't wake looking down the barrel of a gun. That is what freedom stands for... it stands for hope. The hope of being more than what life intends, flying higher and faster and stronger than the others. That is the hope that we don't suffer from only trying to practice our personal religious views.

Autonomy means that we can grow to live *our* life the way we want to and not the way society intends. Freedom is knowing that the quotes "If you want something bad enough you can do it" and "Never give up for your future lies ahead" are true. It stands for a little girl who is six years old and chooses what she wants to do when she's twenty six. That hallowed word means that the words "with liberty and justice for *all*" are true. To be free is looked upon in other countries as a feat to be left unaccomplished, but here that seemingly impossible quality is a reality.

America is the melting pot where blacks, whites, Latinos, Asians, and hundreds of others can subside in a calm, hopeful environment. The word "freedom" is how a person can sit down and plan out their life, every single, solitary detail planned out on a piece of paper. *That* person can live *that* life without a disruption of every one of those details. That is how you know we live in a wonderful place, when an individual can do things unimaginable. Then finally, our independence is where the impossible from our perspective, is absolutely nothing. That, my people, is what freedom means to me.

1/28/08

What freedom means to Me,

Joshua Bowman

When people from far away immigrated to America, they thought of freedom. Being free from any dictators, any segregation, any religious oppression. When they saw the statue of Liberty, they knew that they could start again. Some of us take freedom for granted. We just hear about it in the newspaper, how people are being killed for what they believe in. In Iran, all people who speak the Bible will be killed. In the 1950's and 60's African Americans were being persecuted just because of their skin color. Now, America has learned from our mistakes and now all people are free.

In other countries, freedom is just a myth, a story from a book of fairy tales. They have dreams about being on a ship, Ellis Island in view, longing for the equality that God created us with. When the slaves were working all day and night for their masters. They never would have thought that in under 200 years, their race would be free from any oppression. The people who know what freedom means respect it.

Freedom is the state of being equal with another being. For others, Freedom is just living in America. Freedom isn't just a word, it's a state of being. It's a way of life, a way people live. Freedom is important to everyone, and everyone needs it.

History-2

"What Freedom means to me"

Madeline Moore

1/28/09

... O say, can you see by the dawn's
early light, ... To me freedom means
dignity, pride, and peace. Freedom is what makes
our country what it is. I appreciate freedom
and respect who gave it to me.

It is always dignifying and also comforting
to know I have freedom. I am free to practice
whatever religion I want, and am treated as an
equal. I am not forced to be afraid.

I am proud of the people who fought
for me to be free. To me freedom means being
proud of who you are, what you are, and where
you came from, and not worrying what is thought
of it.

Being free also means being peaceful.
We all have the peace in knowing we have the
rights to being free. Peace is the most
important part to freedom, being able to go
home and have nothing to worry about, being
able to say what you want and have no consequences.

I love my freedom, dignity, pride, and
peace. With freedom and liberty there is nothing
to fear except fear itself... O say, does that
star-spangled banner yet wave o'er the land of the
free and the home of the brave?

History-6

Jamie Crocker

What Freedom means to me

01-28-09

Freedom means that I have equal rights. The same rights, rules, and consequences as every-
one else. Freedom means that I can speak my mind. Freedom means that I
can do what ever I want, as long as it obeys by the law. To me, Freedom
means everything.

To be free is a great experience. People who are free have more rights
than those who aren't. We can do more than the people who aren't free.
We live our lives the way we want, not the way that other people
want. We live our lives by the events occurring at that time,
not by orders or a schedule.

We are free, not slaves. We don't have an owner, we are our
own person. Freedom is important in our lives, and without it, we
would suffer. Our freedom gives us our happiness, our sadness, our
anger, hate, and every other emotion we may have. Without freedom,
we would always be sad, and we would be nothing but workers
who never end their shift. You see, without freedom, we are
nothing.

The freedom we have is mine, yours, and everyone else's ticket to
live our lives the way we wish to. Laws also allow us to express
our freedom. Without laws, our community, cities, and every where
around the world would be no more. Without laws, we would
abuse our freedom, eventually, wiping us from existence.

So, without laws, there is no freedom, and with freedom there is responsibility, and we are lucky to be or live in a country that gives us these rights.

What Freedom Means To Me

Freedom means being independent, your own person. To me freedom means that people have the right to do what they want within reason and speak up for what they believe in which is now known as Freedom of Speech. People are able to speak up for what they like and don't like.

There are different types of freedom. You have freedom to wear what kind of clothes you want to wear, see what movies you want to see, shop at what store you like and the freedom to buy what kind of car you want to buy. We the people also have the right to attend which school we choose and the capabilities to pick our own major. In the past we were not able to do these things because whites were more powerful than blacks but now we are all treated equally.

As young black lady on the rise I am glad that we do have a lot more freedom than our grandparents and great grandparents had because without freedom I think things would be hard to deal with. Not being able to speak my mind would mean a lot of my hopes and dreams would probably be just that hopes and dreams meaning no one would know how I'm feeling and what I aspire to be.

Freedom to me at this point in my life is real tasty because now I look forward to the future and my dreams of becoming a pediatrician after I complete college. I also know that without the help of our ancestors fighting for freedom we would not have gotten this far and they would not have given me the strength to dream.

Donielle Golden

W. G. Sanders Middle School

K. M. Hope