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Essay Contest

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### Freedom

Freedom. What does it mean to you? Does it mean you can go out whenever you want? Eat whatever you want? Maybe you believe you should be allowed to do anything and everything you want. You more than likely already know, this isn't how the world today works. There are many laws and many rules you have to abide by whether they are given to you by your parents or by your government. Our government has very strict policies but we are also blessed with freedoms. The United States allows its citizens five different freedoms given to us in our First Amendment through our Constitution. Most of these are being fought for in other countries. They include: freedom of Religion, Speech, Press, Assembly, and Petition for Redress. Everyone has their opinion about which is better, and through this essay I'm going to tell you why I believe that freedom of speech is the most important freedom to have.

For my first argument, I would like to state the fact that humans are the only creatures in God's creation that have been given the gift of speech. The acuity and right of people to say what's on their minds is the foundation of freedom! For any person, man or government, to restrict that right is the foundation of Caesarism. Everything wonderful that our beautiful country has become is all because someone stood up and spoke their mind. They had ideas to make this place better and it became a reality because someone said something. Someone used the ideas that a person spoke of to create a structure, to write a book, or even draft a legislation that

became a part of the American experience. All because someone had an idea or a thought, a big piece of land became our accomplished country.

Imagine, if we weren't given freedom of speech, we could all be kept under a dictatorship and if anything was said about it you would more than likely be tortured or killed for your words, for your opinion. You would fear imprisonment for your thoughts. Without freedom of speech, nothing else matters! You can't discuss your religion or bring people to it without speaking out. Freedom of the Press wouldn't matter because the media wouldn't be able to talk or discuss what's going on the world. They couldn't ask the "real" questions needed when interviewing someone, especially if they were working for the government. Freedom Assembly would be gone. That is where you are suppose to come together and express, promote, and pursue your ideas but how can you do that without speech? Lastly, the right to Petition for Redress is where you complain to your government or ask for assistance with an issue, you can't really say what you want to. Your thoughts are controlled. Nothing else matters if you can't speak for yourself.

In conclusion, I would like to point out that the freedom of speech gives the people some power. It gives citizens the ability to change things, or even simply try and stand up for what they believe in. This gives them the ability to make a difference, they can feel as though they are bettering their country and it also provides a security that the government actually listens to the voices of the ones they have power over. Freedom of speech means the evolution of ideas, which then leads to growth.

Now I would like to conclude this essay by using this example, without freedom of speech, you would not be allowed to question any freedom. You would not be able to express your views on it or write an essay about it. All you would be able to do is keep whatever view you may have in your private thoughts. Your thoughts, opinions, and ideas wouldn't matter. The world would

never know. You could be the person to start the next social buzz around the world but because you can't express your thoughts and ideas, no one will ever know who you are. Without freedom of Speech, nothing would ever change, and we would still be the same country we were when we were founded.