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Law Day Essay

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Importance of the 14th

Currently we are living in the 2018, which is a time where we don't really struggle with the issues of slavery or civil rights like we did in the 1800s when the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments were created. It has been about 153 to 148 years ago that the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments were adopted to the constitution. These amendments were needed then and were important that they be added to the constitution during that time. Although all three were important for that time in history and did have effects on the future of America after they were added, the 14th amendment is the most important of the three because of it playing a big role in moving society forward, it is still important today, and it had a greater and more lasting effect when compared to the 13th and 15th amendments.

All three amendments did have significant impacts, but the 14th was the most significant and most important. The 13th amendment made slavery illegal which is significant, but slavery is still legal in the America if it is in the form of punishment for some crime. This amendment did not have as major of an affect as the 14th amendment. The 13th amendment served mostly to end slavery which was a major issue for the government that was always being debated. This amendment also freed slaves and allowed them to be released from often abusive lives and daily harsh labor. The 15th amendment to the constitution served to allow African Americans the right to vote or any race or past servitude. This was a result of the 13th and 14th amendment being passed. If it were not for those amendments, then the 15th would not have come about because

society would not have been ready to just give African Americans the right to vote. The 15th amendment allowed for African Americans to become a bigger part of society as normal people and a greater role in the government with getting to have a say in what happens. Although the 13th and 15th amendments were significant and important for the reconstruction period after the civil war when they were drafted to get African Americans their rights, the 14th is still the most important. It can be thought of as the glue that holds the rights together or a bridge between the 13th and 15th amendments.

The 14th amendment played such an important role in history where it really helped advance society and move it forward to a more equal society. The 14th amendment gave African Americans who were former slaves citizenship rights and the right to equal protection like everyone else under the law. This significance began to appear evident in big court cases such as in Plessy vs. Ferguson which caused an outcome where the 14th amendment kind of backfired on its purpose and created the Jim Crow laws in the South which allowed facilities to be separate but equal even though they really were not equal. The 14th amendment was used again in the court case Brown vs. Board of education where segregation was struck down. This is an example of how the 14th amendment was important then when it was passed and how it is still important today. If the 14th amendment were not established, then the schools would still be segregated and the 44th President of the United States would not have been an African American. The great thing about the 14th amendment is that it is about so much more than just African Americans equal protections, but equal protections for everyone. The 14th amendment can be applied to more than just one situation, topic, or issue. The use of the 14th amendment being used for other things can be seen in the court cases of Roe vs. Wade, Bush vs. Gore, and Obergefell vs. Hodges. The Obergefell vs. Hodges is a more recent court case that shows how the 14th amendment is still

relevant to today's times and issues. This court case dealt with the issue of gay marriage. The 14th amendment is significant and important for one of the reasons that it can address many issues like segregation, abortion or right to privacy, and gay marriages being legal or not. These issues are all and have all been issues that have caused debates within America about what should and shouldn't be done but can be aided with the help of the 14th amendment. The 14th amendment allows for some clarity and a sort of understanding to be reached which helps move society forward and past these big issues into a more united America.

Even though the 14th amendment probably couldn't have been made without the 13th amendment first being made and 15th made after the 14th as a result of the 14th and 13th amendments, the 14th is the most important of the three amendments because it was the most significant, was very important then and still is today, and is still being used today for many other reasons than just its original intent which allowed for it to help move society forward. Without the 14th amendment it can honestly be said that we would probably not be where we are today as a society and as a Nation that is united like it is.

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