

Freedom Essays 2008

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Let Freedom Ring

The bell of freedom rings throughout our great country, and it resonates in my heart. We are fortunate to hear its clear tones and know it tolls for us. Whether we are prosperous or not, regardless of our ethnicity, gender, abilities, or education, in the United States of America, all can hear freedom ring. As our cracked Liberty Bell reminds us, our independence must always be cherished and protected. The Roman philosopher, Marcus Cicero, observed, "Freedom is a possession of inestimable value." Unfortunately, there will always be challenges to our self-determination by those who do not appreciate freedom's worth.

Three years ago my family came under attack from a different enemy. My mother was diagnosed with cancer, and we were not sure what would happen. I had to imagine life without my mother. Thankfully, we live in a country where people are free to pursue excellence, and my mother was able to get the best of health care. In America, physicians, scientists, and medical researchers are free to strive, explore, and discover. According to Albert Einstein, "Everything that is really great and inspiring is created by the individual who can labor in freedom."

It was hard to watch my mother go through surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation, but on the last day of her treatment, I got to see my mother ring a small bell given to her by a nurse. The bell's chime signified the end of treatment and, hopefully, freedom from cancer. That bell had such a hopeful and reassuring peal.

Not all countries get to hear the sweet sound of freedom. In some, those who are talented or passionate about something do not have the liberty to follow their dreams. Their fate is

determined by the powerful. If America functioned in such a way, imagine all of the opportunities and innovations that would be lost. The quality of our lives would be dramatically diminished.

I am proud to be a citizen of a country where freedom rings. I realize that if my family did not live in the United States of America, there is a chance that my mother might not be alive today. We need to remember the importance of our liberty, and stand up to protect it. I hope that everyone can someday hear the bell of freedom, and treasure it as I do.

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Kristen Bednar

The Winds of Freedom

Freedom. This seven letter word seems extremely simple and yet, incredibly complex. If you asked someone to define the word freedom, their answer would sound something similar to, "Oh, that's easy..." but then they would just draw a blank. Freedom covers such a vast variety of privileges we take for granted every day. For one person, freedom could mean knowing that you are constantly safe and protected because of our freedoms. However, for another person, it could merely represent the first amendment in our Bill of Rights, Freedom of Religion, Speech, Press, Assembly, and Petition. Freedom means something to each and every one of us, but we take it for granted instead, never taking the time to worry about it.

To me, freedom resembles wind, flowing whichever direction it pleases. The wind is so similar to our freedom because it has so many options. It can travel north, south, east, or west and not one human on earth can force it to go somewhere or prevent it from moving someplace. These options that the wind has are similar to the options that our freedom gives us. Some choices freedom allows us are to live wherever we desire, state whatever we believe, and make our own decisions. Of course, there are a few obstacles freedom and the wind both encounter. The wind must watch out for trees, houses, and other buildings, but nothing can stop it altogether. These houses in front of the wind symbolize the government and laws we must follow in our freedom. The wind cannot simply ignore these houses by flowing through them, like we cannot ignore laws, but the wind still carries on and remains free to move almost anywhere.

Freedom undoubtedly means a great deal to me and is extremely significant. Most people don't wake up every morning thinking about their freedom, making it the largest thing taken for granted in this nation. "It is easy to take liberty for granted, when you have never had it taken from you." This well known quote has an unknown author but he is so very true. None of us understand what it feels like without freedom because we have had it all of our lives. Freedom is something that everyone expects, kind of like how we expect the wind, but it never occurs to us that tomorrow, the wind may not come.

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Taylor Wollenberg

Waves of Freedom

Freedom – (noun) the state of being free or at liberty rather than in confinement or under physical restraint (American Heritage Dictionary). There are so many people who go through life and take the freedoms they have, completely for granted. If you sit down and think, really think about what freedom means to you, you will find that everyone has a unique way of viewing it. For some, it's the ability to walk down the street without fear. To others, it's being able to choose your place of worship. For many teenagers, it's the ability to express themselves and show their individuality. My mother, Jan King, believes that freedom means being competent to do whatever you want without feeling threatened. On the other hand, my brother sees it as being capable to think or feel however he wants to feel, regardless of what others think. No one's idea is right, no one's idea is wrong. They're all opinions that relate to the situation or state that you're experiencing at that time.

I view freedom as I view waves in the ocean. These waves are open to travel wherever they please, but are often influenced or controlled by other things. The wind tells the waves where to go. The wind symbolizes our government which directs us and tells us what to do. To me, freedom means that I can express myself in whatever manner I wish to. I can sleep peacefully at night and walk down the street without terror. Freedom is the ability to be who I want to be, not who somebody else wants me to be. I would give up a lot to keep my freedoms.

Obviously, freedom is such a key element in our community, yet we pass through our lives without giving it a second thought. I believe that it's sad that we, as people, take

our freedoms for granted. I'm guilty of this as much as anyone else. The American Civil Liberties Union explained, "liberty is always unfinished business." This quote is so true since we are constantly at war to keep our freedoms and we always will have to fight for it, but I think it's worth it. Charles Dickens once said "I only ask to be free. The butterflies are free." I know that I would rather live fighting for my freedoms than cower and have somebody else control my life.

Freedom to me is having the ability to become whatever I choose to be. I am an individual with dyslexia. I am a smart person but I learn differently from other people. I am aware that most of my classmates do not know what dyslexia is. They are also not aware of the struggle that I have in school to overcome my deficits. However, having dyslexia does not tie me down; in fact, it gives me a boost. I have a different way of looking at the world: I have more imagination and can think of different ways to do things. In America I am not condemned to be unsuccessful as in many other countries that do not have freedom and would label me as a failure or a cripple. Other education systems would not stop and take a look at why someone is not at the same reading level as everyone else. In another country you may not get an education at all. America allows individuals to become whatever they want to become.

With my dyslexia I am a very optimistic person and freedom allows people like me to take advantage of our ideas by becoming entrepreneurs, inventors, or whatever else they would like to be. There are many examples in American history of people who took advantage of this freedom and became successful. These individuals include Benjamin Franklin, Henry Ford, Charles Schwab, Paul Orfila and many others. None of these great men did well in school but became great leaders who took advantage of their freedoms by taking their failures and turning them into prosperous, thriving, innovative businesses or inventions. They had the freedom to foster new ideas and became great successes. The ability to think and develop something that was not there before is true freedom.

Becoming what I want to be will allow me to shine my brightest. Everyone in America has this right and privilege. In the United States you can be whatever you want

What Freedom Means To Me

to be. The only limit is yourself, your belief in yourself, and the actions you take to make those dreams come true. I believe that I simply have to get over the hurdle of school and use the knowledge gained from scholastic hardships in the outside world I will be successful. My favorite quote by Albert Einstein is that "imagination is far more important than knowledge." I think opportunity is one of the most important attributes of being free.

Without freedom many people could not become what they want to be. In America you are only limited to your thoughts and dreams. True freedom is when the only limit to your success is your own thoughts and imagination.

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Lewis Palmer Mudd
Darby Watt

Freedom -- one word that has the power to change your life and how you live it; one word that allows you to speak out about what you think and how you feel. It gives you the ability to do what you please, when you please, and as long as you are not breaking the law; no one can tell you otherwise. Freedom does not come cheap. It was given to us by our forefathers, and now it is ensured by our soldiers who risk their lives for it. Freedom is so valuable because the United States is one of the few countries that possesses liberty and freedom for all of its citizens. Freedom is as fragile as life itself, and can be swept out from under our feet at any moment, which means we should cherish it while we can.

Being able to express myself is something I cherish most. When you express yourself, you show how unique you really are, and that is what makes you...you! Freedom allows you to speak out about what you believe in. Protests and speeches allow people to speak out against the government. If you cannot express your thoughts, then you do not have the chance to make a difference in the world. For example, if you believe that there needs to be a change made in your community, then you can bring it up, and make the world a better place one step at a time.

Most people do not realize it, but freedom is what creates diversity in the way we lead our lives. It allows you to pursue your dreams, and choose your path. Some people choose to let their actions speak out for them through the branches of

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the United States military. Air Force, Army, Navy, and Marines are all careers that allow every day citizens to stand up and fight for their rights, and for the rights of others. Many men and women have volunteered and summoned the courage to fight for America and the citizens within. They look fear in the eyes and face it head on without hesitation. They risk their lives along with their freedom so that future generations have the same freedoms as those citizens of today.

Freedom can be so complicated, and yet it can be so simple. It can mean so much, and yet it is threatening to those who try to take it away from us. It is astonishing how one word can either make or take your life. One word that can put you in harm's way, or keep you safe and sound when you sleep through the night in a warm, cozy bed. Freedom will determine how you live your life.

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The Light of Freedom

Freedom has been around since the beginning of time. Freedom is not tangible, but a thought, a light flitting around the edges of the mind; hard to grasp, yet harder still to stop searching for. The founding fathers of our great nation remembered this age-old concept—this wondrous thing that man has sought for as long as he can remember—when creating our country. The United States of America was one of the first countries to declare independence and rebuild itself on the foundation of liberty. Numerous people from every nation, ethnicity, background, and religion immigrate to our United States, and for one reason: Freedom.

Freedom and America have been intertwined since the country was conceived: These two items inspire a myriad of images in the hearts of different people. A woman who has hidden her face behind a veil her entire life may view freedom as a place in the sun where she can smile at others without fear. A young man who never received formal schooling may see the United States as an education, a career, and a life. To me, freedom is mostly opportunity. Without freedom, opportunity, or equality, I probably would not have gotten the medical attention I needed to treat my Ewing's sarcoma almost two years ago. Had I lived in another country, my family

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might not have been fortunate enough to receive the expensive treatment from the best doctors in the world.

In addition to the medical treatments available to me, I also have the chance to pursue an education and religion. When we are children of innocence, the cruelties of the world are hidden, and the thought of a life without freedom never crosses our minds. When we are older, however, we wonder. If I were in another country where girls are forbidden to learn, I would never fulfill my lifelong dream of becoming a veterinarian. If I were in another country where Christians are persecuted, I would not be able to attend church with my family and friends.

Immigrants are said to perceive the United States as “a land of opportunity.” *America is freedom, so freedom is opportunity.* We, the American people, have the blessed opportunity to wake up in the morning and pursue our dreams, soar above on eagle’s wings, and choose our fate. We can take the high road or the low road, make mistakes, cry, and move on. We can smile, get a job, worship our God, not be afraid, and make a place for ourselves in the world. All of this is possible because of that little light that our forefathers remembered when laying down the building blocks of this awesome nation, the United States of America.

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The Fountain

While I was thinking about what freedom means to me, I was trying to come up with a very patriotic way of saying how I love it. But when no ideas would come, I looked around and realized that I was imbibing in the Fountain of Freedom at that very moment. And *because* men and woman were fighting in far off countries, I was experiencing freedom, yours and mine.

Whenever I take a step outside in Aeropostale jeans or a hot pink shirt, I am drinking of America's Fountain of Freedom. I do not have to worry about people stopping me on the street and stoning me for not wearing a dress or a burka covering me head to toe.

The Fountain is bathed in blood with names etched into stone. Battles, images, and lives commemorate the milestones of our past. But even though we are reminded of freedom and her fountain everyday, we still are apathetic. Some just don't care about the heroic sacrifice going on in countries across oceans and seas. Every day men and woman give up their lives readily to set up Fountains of Freedom in other countries. To me, this is the ultimate sacrifice and we should respect it.

More often than not, most Americans push the lowly Fountain onto a shelf in their minds, while it continues to pump out freedom, rights and service that goes entirely unnoticed. But once in a while, Americans pull out the Fountain, dust it off and use it to make a point to the rest of the world. In itself, is not that freedom? To be able to change a law, document, ruling idea, or to just be

yourself is the very essence and marrow of freedom. And then, once again, the Fountain runs ever stronger.

If our heroic men and woman in those far off lands ever got silenced, stifled and pulled away, eventually, the Fountain of Freedom would become rusty and dilapidated. Instead of heroes names etched into the stone, there would be swastikas, names of dictators and fiery images of a nation tom apart by no democracy. The water workings of the Fountain would be shattered. The only way the Fountain could be repaired would be by master masons, wiping off the rust those years of bondage had made, standing the lovely Fountain on its base. It would be as strong as it once was.

So when I think of freedom, instead of merely rights, I think of a strong and battle worn Fountain, ever ready and free for all.

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Garrett Rogers

When some people think of freedom they take it for granted and do not think of the men and women who have risked their lives to keep this nation free. When I think of freedom I think of my great-grandpa, and the rights he fought for so that I could be free.

My great-grandfather fought bravely in a war that could have ended his life, but luckily it did not. When Pearl Harbor was bombed on December 7, 1941 my great-grandpa knew what to do immediately. He enlisted into the Navy and was assigned to the USS Waupaca to help fight Japan and keep America free. The USS Waupaca was a 2280 ton Navy fuel ship, and served in the Pacific Campaign.

My great-grandpa went through many near death situations and fought bravely because he knew what Japan was doing and knew that he had to help stop it.

After the war, the Secretary of the United States Navy wrote a letter stating that my great-grandpa fought bravely with the best navy and defeated the two greatest evils at the same time and that the United States is truly grateful. My great-grandpa never mentioned that letter. Nobody knew about the letter until he died. He went to battle, not for recognition, but only because he knew that it was the right thing to do. My great-grandpa knew what freedom meant to him, and he put his life on the line for people he did not even know to keep them safe and free.

Today, I think about the freedoms I have and how lucky I am to have them. The freedoms I think of the most, and that America has fought for to keep them free are the freedom of speech and the freedom of religion. When America joined World War II it was because Hitler was trying to make a world that had one religion, and one race. Americans like my great grandpa fought bravely to keep the world safe so that not only America but other countries could live with multiple races and with the choice of religion.

With people who are willing to sacrifice everything for these freedoms, we are the greatest country in the world. It is because of the brave and courageous people, like my great-grandpa, of America's past, present and future, our freedoms have and always will be safeguarded from those who wish to threaten them.

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Jacob Glenn

To me, Freedom is a gourmet meal that has been made to perfection. Several delicious items are included in this delicious meal. But, the meal is not free. Like a gourmet meal, freedom has several unique components such as the ten Bill of Rights or the constitution of the United States. But to protect these magnificent things from terrorists, there is a cost.

First, freedom has the ten Bill of Rights, which are also known as the first ten Amendments. Some of these are the freedom of speech, the right to bear arms, and the right of a trial by jury, or of a fair and equal trial. Freedom of speech lets you express yourself vocally and by writing. There are several wonderful things about this freedom. This freedom lets you protest without disturbing the peace of others around you. Also, there is the right to bear arms. The right to bear arms lets you keep a weapon in your home for safety and security, but several precautions need to be taken. Finally, there is the right of trial by jury. This right gives you a chance of a fair trial in court.

Next, there is the Constitution of the United States of America. This is the structure of the Federal government. The Constitution tells the government what it can and cannot do. An example of this would be that the government could not do any thing that is against any person's rights. If someone thinks that his rights have been violated, he will go to a federal court known as the Court of Appeals or a state court.

There are several costs to freedom. One of these costs is that any American has to be able to sacrifice his life to protect the ones that he truly loves. The ultimate sacrifice is to put your life in front of others to protect their rights. Some people say that they are willing to do just that, but they actually deep down, do not want to give their lives for

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someone else's rights, but there are also people that do want to go out and fight for the greatest cause they will ever fight for and that cause is freedom.

Even though freedom has wonderful rights known as the ten Bill of Rights, and a republic government, there are prices that need to be paid. Freedom is not free. Freedom has a cost just like a delicious gourmet meal. Freedom is a gourmet meal made to perfection and full of several unique components that our soldiers fight for each and every day.