

## What Does Freedom Mean to You?

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What does freedom mean to me? Well, that's the question and honestly freedom means infinite things to me: It means being able to have our own unique belief system plus I appreciate my freedom of speech and, to be able to make a choice and an example of that is getting to choose how we go back to school with the virus still going around. Freedom can mean a lot of things but most importantly to me, it means being able to be who we are and live our lives in our fashion.

I have compassion in my heart for the people's right to immigrate. There are people in this country who believe that immigrants come into this country to steal jobs, bring crime and are also a drane on the government system. In all actuality, it could go both ways, but the majority of immigrants come for a better way of life to provide for their families and themselves to live the American Dream.

Many people from all over the world idolize America and the opportunities this country provides. Growing up here in America, I always believed that since America promotes freedom, It was going to be easier to grow up and be who I wanted to be and believe in what I wanted to believe in. As a Mexican-American, Native American, and a supporter of the LGBTQ+ the more reality sets in and the hate that infests our country against one's race, religion, sexual orientation, or political view, makes it a more challenging path for certain people like me to achieve the American Dream to its fullest potential. Now that I am older, I fully understand that there is constantly going to be hatred and judgement especially with one's religion and beliefs.

Through the years, freedom will continue to be interpreted from one person to the next, but one thing is for sure our freedom comes from our God given rights of life, liberty and property. It is up to us the people of the United States of America to live by our own choices wisely. These rights have been fought for in wars overseas and wars on our own lands. Marther Luther King Jr. once said, "Freedom has always been an expensive thing. History is fit testimony to the fact that freedom is rarely gained without sacrifice and self-denial."

I believe that growing up in America there is always some kind of standard that we need to follow to be able to be accepted. Freedom means the ability to grow and succeed without someone dictating what choices you make. I feel that people In America don't have the freedom that has been promised especially with the inequality that are faced in day to day lives.

I understand people think freedom is doing whatever they please, but freedom comes with responsibility. Freedom wears many hats and each citizen will have their own opinion. I believe freedom truly means giving everyone equal opportunities for the pursuit of happiness. Now what does freedom mean to you?