

Mathews #
10-5

What My Vote Will Mean to Me

As of today, 659 days remain until I am able to vote in the great United States of America. When I reach voting age, I will achieve a milestone, but I will gain a serious responsibility. With my vote, I will be able to have a say in my local, state, and national government. I am very fortunate, as this is not the case in many countries, where fair and free elections do not exist.

Even though I am only one person, my vote will matter. The more individuals who vote for a particular thing, the more powerful our votes become. Voting is one of the best ways to make our voices heard. The more people who vote, the more the power will be transferred to the voters and not to government leaders.

I will make it a priority to educate myself about the candidates and the topics on the ballot prior to stepping into the voting booth. Voting without the proper knowledge can be dangerous and is worse than not voting at all. To prevent this, I will understand the process and the importance of voting. I will educate myself on the topics I am voting on by reading and studying issues. In addition, I will seek other people's ideas in order to consider various points of view, which will assist in formulating my own opinion. By doing this, I will enable myself to cast a well-informed ballot.

I will not take the right to vote for granted. I understand and appreciate the sacrifice of those who fought for the freedom that allows me to have a say in my government, as well as those who fight to maintain it. You forfeit your right to be heard when you choose not to vote.

I encourage everyone to educate themselves about our 15th Amendment right, then to go out and practice it. The United States offers its citizens the great privilege of freedom, but with that privilege comes the responsibility of supporting that freedom by exercising our right to vote.