

## What My Vote Will Mean to Me

In the Fifteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution, the greatest right was granted to every U.S. citizen: the ability to vote. I am blessed to live in a country where when I turn eighteen, I will obtain this power that many people in other countries do not have. Unfortunately, many citizens take this right for granted, but to me, the right to vote means that I have freedom of speech, that my voice matters, and that I have an opportunity to take part in my country's government.

When I receive the privilege to vote, I am given the opportunity to express my opinions and ideas without any restraint. It is important to me that I have the ability to turn my opinion into a contribution without fear of consequence. The right to freedom of speech comes hand-in-hand with the right to vote. Both of these rights ensure that my voice matters in our government. My one vote can make a difference.

Equally important, my vote will mean that I have a voice in our government. A voice that many people around the world do not have a chance to use. Imagine a place where people are forced to live under a government that makes its own decisions, and does not allow you to have an opinion or help make beneficial changes. In the United States, however, I have a say in both local issues and national issues because of my right to vote. For instance, I can vote on the leaders of my country, future laws, road repair, certain taxes, and countless other topics and issues. I have the privilege to contribute in the place that I call home.

The Founding Fathers of the United States created the Constitution, which contains many rights and freedoms for the citizens of our country, such as the right to vote. Therefore, it is my responsibility and privilege to vote on the matters of my country. My vote means that I have the freedom of speech, that my one voice matters, and that I have the chance to participate in my country's government.