

The Bill of Rights and Me

The first 10 Amendments to the U.S. Constitution are known as the Bill of Rights and it has withstood and survived for more than 230 years during the challenging times in our country's history. It is the cornerstone principal for our country. The Bill of Rights is the one document that defines us as a nation and shines a light on democracy of everything that is good in the United States. It is a promise from the government to its people that guarantees rights and freedoms, while it limits the power of government. It has been tested and interpreted in our courts to safeguard democracy for all.

To me the Bill of Rights means, my voice will be heard, my right to support or protest peacefully will be allowed, and my ability to protect myself will be honored. I can express an opinion, listen, or read what I choose. I have confidence in our courts and legal system with the protection from self-incrimination, the examination of evidence by a judge and jury, to have bail, and due process in a timely manner. I am grateful for the ability to protect my life, liberty and property with arms while being protected by our military and law enforcement's duty to uphold law and order.

I use my rights when I attend church, a meeting, or read an article. In our modern digital world of postings, and texting, our communication is only a push of a button away. Being able to respond without censorship or the ability to listen, compare and vote for a candidate is guaranteed to us all.

We must remember that the Bill of Rights is so important that brave soldiers have fought and died to protect these rights. This means that I have the right to speak or not speak, to read or not read, to vote and to defend myself. I have the choice to decide and the protection from the law to support me. That is why I am proud to be an American and grateful for the Bill of Rights.