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The Bill of Rights and Me

Our founding fathers worked tirelessly to create a better America. Learning from the failures of the past, they worked to ensure a brighter future for the next generation and created a set of guidelines to protect us. The Bill of Rights is not just a document, but a symbol of American freedom.

To me, the Bill of Rights shows not just who I am as an American, but who I can be within this country. Thanks to these rights, I can stand up for ideas, justice, and that which belongs to me. Because of these rights, I know that I am protected by the government to live my life as a US citizen.

The Bill of Rights has three important themes, the first being the importance of expression. The First Amendment ensures freedom of speech, religion, press, assembly, and petition; a hefty list that is absolutely core to the foundation of this country. Freedom of speech makes civil discourse possible. It allows for the exchange of ideas to make our country and our world a better place.

The second theme of the Bill of Rights is the idea of justice. As Thomas Paine once said, "An avidity to punish is always dangerous to liberty. It leads men to stretch, to misinterpret, and to misapply even the best of laws." The Bill of Rights protects me from unjust punishments and imprisonment, ensuring an America where the law is fair to everyone.

Finally, this document ensures my right to property. These protections let me know that I can keep what I work for. Possessions aren't just for the greedy- they are tokens of our effort. Land-related property is where we build our homes and raise our families. Monetary property is the benefit of our investment of time. Property carries meaning to us, and wrongly taking that property needs to be prohibited.

The United States has a duty to the people. Accountability is key to any democracy, and the Bill of Rights is an important document providing that to the public. This document is America. Not America the few, but America the many.