

The Bill of Rights and Me

The Bill of Rights clearly states our most basic and fundamental rights under the current government structure. The fact that these amendments protect my liberties and those of the states speaks volumes. Our freedom is given and protected by this document; this is the importance of the Bill of Rights in my life.

The Bill of Rights consists of the first ten amendments to the constitution. It is the formal documentation of our basic rights under the current government. These are our civil rights, rights of accused persons, and states' powers.

Many people aren't aware of what the Bill of Rights actually does. Just asking my peers I find that there is a certain amount of confusion over the document. When first written by James Madison, the Bill was a milestone for the progression of society. People who had been persecuted for their beliefs and opinions were now assured the freedom of expression. This is something that is still not a reality for millions of people around the world. It also protects the rights of accused citizens. With the amount of freedom we are given it is easy to do wrong. When that happens we are liable to be punished, but multiple amendments outline our protection in this case. It also gives all powers not granted to the Federal government, to the states and people.

These liberties are often taken for granted by the American people. The US has provided these rights to its citizens for decades. It can be difficult to grasp that many other people aren't allowed these simple freedoms. Our troops have fought and died for the American dream, protected by the Bill of Rights.

The Bill of Rights, is a symbol to me; a promise even. It protects us from our government and lets us live how we want to live. So to me, the Bill of Rights is the symbol of our freedom, more so even than the flag or bald eagle. It is the actual presentation of what America stands for and I, for one, am grateful.