



What Freedom of Speech Means to Me

Freedom of speech means I can speak up and say what I want to say without fear of punishment. I can wear a hat that supports my beliefs and what I think is best for this country without being pressured to change my beliefs. Since I have the right to express my beliefs and opinions freely, as do others in this country, the world is able to see thousands of different perspectives on the same thing which helps other people discover what they believe for themselves.

At my school I wear a "Make America Great Again" hat and I get a variety of different comments, some good and some are bad. I don't have to worry what anybody has to think or say, it only matters what I think and say because there is no punishment if it is viewed as wrong. Freedom of speech means I can have my own individual set of beliefs without having to change them. Although my opinions and beliefs may not be viewed as politically correct, they are legally protected by my freedom.

In the United States of America, my freedom of speech was fought for and debated and because of the eventual constitution and the amendments this freedom exists now. Because of the wars that were fought and the battles that happened on our own soil, freedom of speech was accomplished. Without that happening, freedom of speech and the right to resist oppression would never have been what it is now. While America has fought for our freedom, including the freedom of speech, other countries oppress and deny their citizens these same freedoms. They are not able to speak freely and will lose their jobs and even their lives if they disagree with the ways that their dictator believes. This is a perfect example of what a lack of freedom of speech looks like and what America would have become if people hadn't given their lives to fight for and protect this precious freedom. I am thankful for my freedom and will try not to take it for granted.