



What "Freedom of Speech" means to me

"Freedom of Speech" has always been something that feels American to me. I am not 100% sure why that is, I just know that it seems when people are talking about this freedom, America is the place they start with. In America, people feel protected and safe to say whatever they want, which can be good and bad at the same time.

What does "Freedom of Speech" mean to me? For me, it means that I know I am able to express my feelings and opinions without fear. That fear could be from people who might disagree with me or people who wouldn't want my thoughts and ideas to be shared. This freedom does require a bit of understanding for us all. I know that to have my freedom of speech also means that someone who I may disagree with, someone who might say things that I think are terrible, also has their speech protected and are free to say whatever they feel.

This freedom is important and will always be protected for us, because our founding fathers understood the importance of it for our country. It was important for us to learn new things, to lead our country and so much more. When I was looking online and doing research about the push for Freedom of Speech and about the source of our amendments, I liked James Madison's view. He said, *"For the people to rule wisely, they must be free to think and speak without fear of reprisal.....and we must have these rights, even if they are misused by a minority"*.

That quote to me, is exactly what I believe. "Freedom of Speech" should remove fear and thoughts or punishment and it should be defended even when it's taken advantage of by others and used for things that I might not agree with. That's why it's great.