



## What Freedom of Speech Means to Me

The founding fathers created the first 10 amendments to the Constitution, or the Bill of Rights. The first amendment protects fundamental freedoms such as freedom of press, protest, religion, assembly and freedom of speech. While all of these are essential to life as Americans, freedom of speech is a building block of liberty. It allows citizens to express their opinions, and much more. To me freedom of speech means that I can fulfill my role as a citizen by having the power and choice to voice my opinion and lift up fellow Americans with words.

One of the beautiful things about America is that everyone has a voice. This is what the founding fathers had in mind when they set up a republic. A republic is a representative form of government where everyone has a voice. The first amendment in the Bill of Rights protects our freedom of having the right to speak up. Freedom of speech is a great gift graciously granted to us as Americans and it is important to not misuse it. We have the privilege to build up fellow Americans and use our words to empower one another, through prayer and inspiration. Politically, we have the power to use speech to influence one another for the good of our country.

Freedom of speech means that I can encourage fellow citizens. In a few years when I can vote, I can use my voice to educate and help the well-being of my country. To me freedom of speech means that I can use my words for the good of everyone around me. I am so thankful for freedom of speech because it gives me a chance to step up, to shine light on the world around me, to influence my peers, to be an upstander in a world of downers. Freedom of speech is a gift given to you and me, it is up to us to decide to open the gift, and use it to inspire change, and empower peers, or to keep it closed.