



Being an American means being free to me. More and more people every year try to come to America so they can be free and not be pushed around like almost slaves. When those soldiers died for us, so we could have freedom, it showed us how much people in America actually care for one another and not just their family. Here in

America everyone is family with everyone. Being an American means alot to everyone here, it means we can say what we want and not get punished for even kidding for what we say. That's what being an American means to me.

*Thea Wiseman*



I like living in America because it gives me the right to have freedom. To me freedom means to be able to choose what to do, however it has limits. I respect the people who died to preserve this freedom. I feel lucky that I have freedom because many countries around the world don't. I like living in a democratic society because it lets

common people have a say in the government. Being an American to me means that you have the right to many freedoms and rights that other countries don't give their people. That is why I like being an American.

*Tim Becker*



Being an American means you get to choose what you want to do. You can go to school, do the sports of your choice, and choose your own religion. You get to vote for the person you want to be President of the United States of America when you turn 18 years old. You also get to vote on other important issues that will affect your life. In American you can wear what you want, look how you want, be who you want, and hang

out with who you want. I am proud to be an American. I feel lucky that I have so many opportunities that are not available in other countries. I believe America is a great nation and I can not imagine living anywhere else on earth and having as much fun as I have here in America. Being an American means life is good. Being an American means I'm FREE!!!

*Todd Bolt*



What freedom means to me. Freedom to me means being able to go outside and not having to worry about being killed just for being there. It means being able to voice your mind without being afraid that somebody will kill you for your opinions. It means letting the children grow up without them worrying if their parents were going to be home when they got there, and if they were going to be going home at all.

diseases. I'm not saying that the U.S. doesn't have homeless and starved people, but we don't live like the poeple in North Korea where the government uses all the money and the people starve. This is the reason I like living in America because at least we get a chance to make a decent living. Sure you might not become billionaires but at least you had a chance to try. The people in other countries don't get a chance, in fact, they usually don't get to work at all.

I'm not saying that we don't have problems like serial killers and abductors, and that we don't have to worry about shootouts and molesters, but I am saying that we are not like other countries that don't have enough money for the children to have shoes, and no scientists to find a way to cure

So I'm going to tell you this and I think you should use it as advice. Don't take anything for granted in America because the people in other countries are not so lucky.

*Valerie Wagoner*



Freedom means that you can do anything you want, "within reason", and not get into trouble for it. You can eat pizza and burritos until your head blows off. You can have as many TVs in your house as you want to—heck, I'm just glad I can watch TV! You can go to a ball game and not worry about if you'll make it home without being killed by the government for what team you cheered for. You can go to your best friend's house and play video games on his PS2 or X-Box and not even consider that there are cameras watching you. You can have your own opinion on sports, government, education, and

life without being shot or kicked out of the country. You can go to school and have a girlfriend and she won't have to wear a rag on her nose. Go to the movies and know that the movie won't be about what you can and can't do tomorrow.

You can go to church and worship God and it doesn't have to be in secret. Freedom is unlike any other gift you can get from anybody today, it's something our forefathers gave to you and me and we should all learn to respect freedom! I thank God every day for that word—freedom.

*Wes Georgeson*

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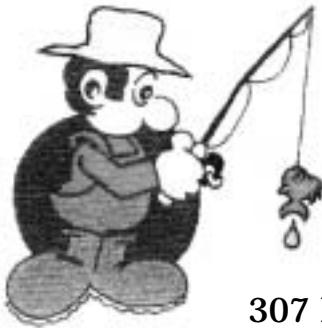
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