

The America I believe in has a strong structure based on The Declaration of Independence, The Constitution, and the freedom awarded to us by the brave men and women that have dedicated their lives to protecting our country. That freedom paved the way for the right to speak our minds, and choose our education and lifestyle. I am proud to be an American and thankful for my freedoms.

The Declaration of Independence states that all people are created equal and are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights. Among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. What that means to me is that everyone is important because a government's power comes from its people and that we the people can create a new government to protect our safety and happiness. When people are treated the same, the world is a better place. All people have basic rights that cannot be taken away from them. It is our responsibility to stay informed and exercise our rights by voting.

The Constitution, with its 27 amendments has been modified since the first 10-which make up the Bill of Rights-that were originally written in 1791. Although today's society is far different than it was in previous centuries, I believe the principals of the Constitution still apply. Advances in technology, changes in the environment and an increased population have forced the world to change drastically. Many people have very different views based on their needs, education, and economic standing. On account of these

differences, it is very important to me to be given choices that represent who I am and how I want to live when I am older.

In conclusion, I am thankful for my opportunities as an American citizen in the 21st century. Instead of going into specific trades based on our family background or gender like manufacturing and agriculture, I will now be able to study things that interest me and become whatever I want. The right of freedom of speech has allowed many revolutionary people throughout history to influence changes that support the very principles documented by our Founding Fathers. The America I believe in is a place where we remember where we have come from and use it to get where we want to go.