

IN THE MIDDLE: What freedom means to me

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Nelson Mandela once said, "To be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others." Freedom can't be touched or seen, but it is a part everything we do. For example, we have small freedoms such as the freedom to bake a cake and larger freedoms such as choosing who runs our country. Freedom is abundant and should not be taken away — no matter what.

Freedom is infinite like space and time. It has always been there even when it was not being used. It is a state of being. As Americans, we are free and should always be free. From before we were born until after we die, freedom is still with us. It can not be measured and should not be stopped. We are ourselves because we are free. We can always be with our friends and family because of it. Freedom allows us to live the life we want. We have jobs so we can be free to spend our money, take vacations or even go to the bowling alley. Almost anything that we do is all because we are free.

Freedom cannot be bought. It is earned. Many men and women serve our country and sometimes give their own lives so we can be free. They protect us in all places- air, land and sea. They could be family, or a complete stranger. We should be thankful for these people. They protect our freedoms so we always have them.

No matter how much or how little we have in life, we will always have the freedom of being alive. Though this may not seem like much, it really is. People thrive and live off freedom's call as it guides us through life every day. Queen Elizabeth once said, "Freedom will always be there and it will always be ringing true to your heart unless your heart isn't beating." Freedom is here and it will always be.

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