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## Being American: What America Means To Me

To be an American. Many take this phrase too lightly others, too strict. Being an American means helping your sworn enemy, even if you do not wish, but you shall help with dignity and pride. Barack Obama states, "You can create your own style, set your own standard of beauty, embrace your own sexuality" (Obama 6). In other words, Obama believes that the graduates at Howard University to take opportunities. Being American means to be united as one, under whatever deity you worship, and to be able to depend, rely on, and give hope to each other. Because being American does not just mean living in America, every person has a part of being an American in them, deep inside, embedded, until they wish to release that piece, and share it with the world. That is what a true American is.

One of the big defining factors in phrases of being an American is embracing the proper of free speech. Outside of the United States, many people would say that Americans are loud and obnoxious, or possibly if they were being a little kinder they might say that Americans can be very upfront! This is due to the fact freedom of speech is a large section of the American way of life and citizens are very much encouraged to talk about their thinking and freely specific their very own opinions. This can seem a little overbearing in different cultures where this is not the norm, but once humans recognize that American's are no longer being deliberately impolite they regularly come to apprehend that it can sincerely be very beneficial to certainly state what you mean, instead than attempt to be polite and stop up making ambiguous statements. Freedom of speech is so vital to the American way of life that it is truly blanketed via The First Amendment to the United States Constitution, although of direction there are restrictions! Freedom of speech does not provide Americans the right to engage in hate speech. Martin Luther King Jr. himself writes, "We must see the need of having nonviolent gadflies to create the kind of tension in society that will help men to rise from the dark depths of prejudice and racism to the majestic heights of understanding and brotherhood" (MLK 3). After all, every other phase of American existence is the acceptance of several cultures and religions that may additionally be distinctive to your own.

In America when freedom is given to those who need it, a door to new possibilities opens up. America, regarded as the land of opportunity, the U.S. that attracts interest to many, calls to others with the promise of freedom. Our National Anthem broadcasts that the United States is "the land of the free and the home of the brave." In Emma Lazarus's poem, "The New Colossus," she mentions a "golden door." Gold is of course a valuable metal, and if this door is made of gold main to a place, it can be inferred that it will lead to a new place to a begin of higher lifestyles than they had before. What's so life-changing about what lies at the back of this golden door? "The New Colossus" talks about immigrants coming to the United States and via making that move, they had been presented with a second risk but most importantly, financial opportunity. Many of these rookies came anticipating to decorate themselves in approaches that had been now not possible if they had stayed and not moved forward. This would have been seen as very treasured to the immigrants. Therefore, in this poem the "golden door" is the start to a variety of possibilities that had been no longer viable in Europe however may want to be located in the United States.

In a good deal of the world today, the common citizen has a very hard life. In the Third World,

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human beings are struggling for their basic existence. It is not that they do not work hard. As the prominent philosopher, Walt Whitman puts it, "The delicious singing of the mother, or the young wife at work, or of the girl sewing or washing" (Whitman 1). On the contrary, they labor steadily and endure hardships that are almost unimaginable to human beings in America. In the villages of Asia and Africa, for example, a frequent sight is a farmer beating a pickaxe into the ground, girls wobbling below heavy loads, youth carrying stones. These humans are performing exhausting labor, however, they are getting nowhere. The satisfaction they can hope for is to survive every other day. Their garments are tattered, their tooth is rotten, and ailment and death constantly loom over the horizon. For most terrible people on the planet, lifestyles are characterized through squalor, indignity, and brevity.

In conclusion, to be American is no longer as easy as being born in the United States. To be an American is about embracing the lifestyle and way of life. Americans can experience the freedom of speech and are section of various and wealthy cultures. Without Martin Luther King Jr., and the other patriots who planted the seed in the ground and help plant the American country we live in now, who knows what America would be like now. Any individual who comes to America to reside can call themselves an American. An American is anyone who embraces freedom and liberty. In short, to be an American, it is imperative to embody the tradition and turn out to be a part of it regardless of where you have been virtually born!

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