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## America. It's a Wonderful Country.

Every country has special qualities that set it apart from the rest. India and China are home to over a billion people and Egypt holds the Great Pyramids. The contrast from country to country is amazing, but what is it that sets America apart? In the most basic form, it is our freedom.

This freedom gives us the ability to choose the paths we will take. We are given the freedom to choose what we will do for a living, how many children we can have, and what religious beliefs we have, among other things. Although the concept of freedom is a common cliché among Americans, it should not be taken for granted. It is the principle that allows us to live the way we do.

America has a very special history when compared to other countries. One of the most important historical pieces of our country is the Constitution. The Constitution was drafted and ratified over 200 years ago, longer than any other country has had one government in place. This document is what really gives us our freedom, and sets forth the rules for a strong nation. The Constitution is what binds our country together, and Article VI states that the Constitution has supremacy over the laws of the land. The framers of the Constitution also made sure that it would be flexible. This is established in Article V, which gives the guidelines for proposing and ratifying amendments to the Constitution. For

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example, Amendment 13 abolished slavery, thereby giving every man, not just whites, the opportunity for freedom. Our country has a history special to the people that live here, and gives rights and privileges unrivaled by many other countries.

Over the past school year, I have been able to take part in a United States Government AP class. This class has shown me many aspects of our government that I did not understand before. The information I have learned has enhanced my view of the way America is run. The federal system helps keep Americans unified, while allowing states to have powers that are not impeded upon by the federal government. This lessens the power of the national government to prevent a tyranny that could cause instability in the country. Through the "separation of powers" and "checks and balances", the federal government is further required to provide the country's citizens with more freedom.

I am very grateful to have the opportunity to be a citizen of the United States of America. I love my country, and I am willing to do what is needed to protect it. This country has faced many problems in the past, and will face many more problems. I plan to use my skills that I gain in the next few years to defend this country from any threat. America truly is a wonderful country.