

Why I Am Proud To Be an American

Hola ¿Como estas? Muy bien gracias... I put my Spanish into practice during a trip to Guatemala; my visit to this third-world country helped me to realize how good we have it here in the United States of America, and just how grateful and proud I am to be an American. There are many things we take for granted, like better standards of living for those who work hard. Even more significant is the vision of our Forefathers, who laid out the footprint of given rights to Americans, protected by our Constitution, such as freedom of speech, religion, and freedom of assembly.

It is no wonder that our country is a melting pot of cultures brought to American soil by our immigrant ancestors. The desire to migrate to our country continues today, with over 11 million illegal aliens migrating to the United States, looking to make a better life for themselves. Associated Press. 17 Oct 2006, Census Bureau: U.S. Population Hits 300 Million. <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,221477,00.html> (Conclusion, para. 16).

I am grateful for the freedom of speech, because this allows me to know I can exchange my opinion and converse about current events without fear of being arrested. For example, in the newspaper you find caricatures that make fun of current politics and government officials. In another country, these cartoon artists could be jailed, maybe even tortured for ridiculing public officials. But in the United States you can disagree with politics without repercussions, thanks to our constitutional right to freedom of speech.

The September 11 tragedy is the perfect example that in our country, the right of freedom of religion has never been more transparent. In a Middle Eastern nation, under similar circumstances, it is likely that Muslims would have been forced to either hide their faith, stop worshipping, or change their religion. I am extremely proud that in my country, we are free to choose and practice any religion fear of being shunned or prosecuted.

The U.S. is a place where any type of group may congregate and organize in order to publicly display their beliefs; protesters may gather on the streets and defend their opinion in a peaceful way without repercussions. The freedom of assembly is yet another right of U.S. citizens that give me pride in being an American.

When we are born, we don't get to choose our country. I feel privileged and proud to be an American citizen, and I shall never take for granted the gift of freedom that America gives to me. The rights, opportunities, and quality of life of Americans is so magnificent and superior that many Americans would volunteer their lives to protect these rights. Compared to other countries in the world, the United States makes all the reasons too clear as to why many would want the privilege of being a proud U.S. citizen like me.