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## WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF CIVIL DISCOURSE AND FREE SPEECH?

Freedom of speech to me is the ability to share your opinions with the world. With this unalienable right we are allowed the ability to disagree. What makes disagreements so powerful is the fact that a lot of great ideas are formed that way. Take the Supreme Court for example; their interpretation of the same case is different and there is never a guarantee that they will always vote the same way and they usually never do, but it is their ability to share what they agree on that makes freedom of speech so powerful. Without this right we would be back in the 1800s where women were meant to be seen and not heard and that is not a world I want to live in.

When I think of freedom of speech I think of the ability to share out whatever is on my mind no matter what the person sitting next to me thinks or feels for that idea.

Freedom of speech is one of the most overlooked of our rights because we have never known what it is like to live without it. We overlook this right because of the fact that we have lived with it forever and no one has ever filtered what we cannot say, we have had conversations about what is appropriate language but when kids learn about freedom of speech they think they can say whatever. Words hold power in every aspect of the word; they are used to harm, to heal, to persuade and even to compliment. So in that aspect freedom of speech is the weapon that we hide and pull out when we have no other choice. When I think freedom of speech I think of power because speech is the most powerful tool that we have in our personal arsenal.