

Emma Avalos

ELA p.5

12/19/17

Should the right to speak freely be taken away?

The ability to speak freely and express our opinions is vital for us to take part in society. From the articles, “ACLU: The Power Of Speech” by Susan N. Herman, “Study looks At How People Think About Free Speech” by Morning Edition, and “Paul Robert Cohen And “His” Famous Free-Speech Case” by David L. Hudson Jr. all informs us as to why our freedom is important and should not be restricted from us. Our freedom to speak freely is important because it shows how we emotionally feel, helps us fight for what we believe in, and it does not give us the fear of regulated by the government.

Our free speech expresses how we emotionally feel. Susan N. Herman in “ACLU: The Power of Speech” informs us stating, “Individual expression crystallized into organized protests at Missouri students expressed their pain and anger by holding demonstrations.” Without the common protests, many will not be able to understand what the main argument is whether it is about politics or someone’s skin color. Susan N. Herman explains, “It is striking that college administrators at Missouri and elsewhere have reacted to this torrent of speech and activism with offers of discussion, negotiation or even resignations—and not with the assumption that those in authority could simply shut down the protests and ignore the message.” Those who protests have

a change in emotion and get angrier when people do not understand which then leads to more protests that will get shut down over and over again.

What we believe in is also shown from our freedom of speech. In our free speech right, we are allowed to say and express what we strongly believe in. According to Chris Crandall in an NPR interview, he states, “Free speech becomes a beautiful justification for prejudice because this is the American way.” This illustrates how our expression to our own beliefs is strongly supported. Chris Crandall includes, “And a free speech justification allows you to say things without being punished-or that others should be punished.” In this case, what we strongly believe in cannot be subjected to punishment. If you were to believe in either a person, place, or thing, it is unreasonable to be punished as it is your own belief which you can show through your speech.

The freedom to speak freely does not give us the fear of being regulated by the government. Often times we do not think we always have the voice to make decisions towards laws or other frightful decisions that government might make. Justice Hudson from the Newseum Institute explains, “Indeed, governments might soon seize upon the censorship of particular words as a convenient guise for banning the expression of unpopular views.” It is vital for us to be included with every decision so there are no forms of conflict in later events. Hudson also includes, “The constitutional right of free expression is powerful medicine in a society as diverse and populous as ours.” Our voices can be used to make good choices and solve good problems as we do not always leave things up to the government. These choices are given to us by voting which the government provides by making polls.

The right for us to speak freely without restrictions is significant to understand because it helps us take part in society. How our freedom of speech is used, can be converted into different

perspectives and be seen as positive statement which others may oppose to.

This freedom helps us show how we emotionally feel, helps us fight for what we believe in, and it does not give us the fear of regulated by the government.