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America250 Essay - Utah 5th Grade

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America250 Essay

Have you ever thought about what America means to you? America is a unique country because it is built on the belief that everyone should have equal rights and freedoms. This is why the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were created, to protect the people's rights and limit the government's power. One idea both of them share is that the government gets its power from the people.

The Declaration of Independence is a founding document of The United States of America that was written and adopted on July 4, 1776. July 4 is also when America broke all political connections from Great Britain. The Declaration of Independence is one of the most important documents in history because it gave birth to a new nation. One important idea from the Declaration of Independence is that governments get their power from the consent of the governed.

This means that governments get their power from the people. People can vote for representatives to go represent a group of people in government. Leaders are not even "above" the people, they serve them. So if the government stops protecting the people's rights, people can change it. Also, the government only exists because the people allow it. This is an important idea because if the US was a dictatorship where people have no voice, it wouldn't be where it is today. This matters to me because I would hate to live in a place where I have no voice in my government.

Another important document of the U.S.A. is the Constitution. It takes the idea from the Declaration of Independence that governments take their power from the people and turn it into real rules the government must follow. The Constitution was signed on September 17, 1787 and is the supreme law of the land. It is significant because every law must abide by it. It is the highest legal authority and foundation framework in America. The Constitution has this special section called the Bill of Rights which is really important. It protects all of the fundamental personal freedoms and civil liberties from anybody who wants to remove one of the rights. One of my favorite ones is freedom of religion. It makes sense that you're allowed to practice and believe any religion you want. This is because if you couldn't choose your own religion, that is basically stopping you from believing what you think is right. That is a basic human liberty and Congress can't take that away. Many other countries don't allow freedom of religion and force you to practice a specific one. Freedom of religion proves that the government must respect the people's decisions, which keeps the power in the hands of the citizens.

America is important to me because you can do anything you want and there are no limits. You have many freedoms, rights, and liberties that every person should have but don't because of stricter governments or dictatorships. America has fair laws that apply to everyone. America ensures that you can believe anything you want, become anything you want, participate in anything you want and just be yourself. These freedoms show that in America you have control over your life and who you want to be, not the government. That's why America is meaningful to me, it protects my choices and lets me grow up to be whoever I want to be.

America was founded on the idea that the government gets its power from the people. To make this possible, the Declaration of Independence and Constitution protect this idea by guaranteeing rights and limiting government power. These freedoms still matter because they

make sure everyone can live their life how *they* want to instead of someone else controlling their choices. That is why America is meaningful to me and what makes America special.