

The Good and Bad of Freedom of Speech

While the First Amendment gives the people of the United States many freedoms, the freedom of speech is by far the most important one. The right to voice your opinion, wear whatever you want, and etcetera are all protected by the First Amendment. The positive aspects of freedom of speech are giving people the chance to express and voice their opinions without repercussions, allowing for everyone to feel safe. This will give people the strength to share ideas and make the U.S. better for good. However, there are disadvantages to this right, mainly that hateful speech is protected because it supposedly doesn't "harm" anyone, which allows people to get away with saying insulting things about others. This means that organizations that spread loathing towards others are free to do so, just like any other group. Therefore, it causes people to feel less safe, and stay quiet about their ideas. In conclusion, the Freedom of Speech given to those living in the U.S. has both positive and negative results, but it still is important and will allow for more ideas to be spread through the U.S.

3rd Place – Matias Giang - Waunakee Community Middle School, Waunakee - 8th grade