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English III

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Amendment I: Why it's important

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What makes America the greatest country in the world? Freedom. We as citizens of America are guaranteed many of our freedoms in the first Amendment of the Constitution of the United States. The reason this Amendment (and the other 26) are so important is because these liberties we have are not stated in the Constitution. The people wanted these basic freedoms, and two of those basic freedoms stated in Amendment I are freedom of speech and freedom of religion. These liberties stated in the First Amendment are what make America have its finest quality: freedom.

Freedom of speech encompasses everything said, whether by mouth or on social media, allowing you to express your opinion without any legal consequences. Before this Amendment, there was no place in the Constitution that stated citizens had freedom of speech. People needed freedom of speech; citizens did not want the government controlling everything they said and be punished for expressing their beliefs. In other countries, such as Saudi Arabia, the citizens can be imprisoned for talking about another religion besides Islam. Freedom of speech also has some disadvantages, allowing people to express beliefs not accepted by most people, which could offend them. Famous actor Tracy Morgan said, "We have freedom of speech, but you have to watch what you say." Saying something offensive could put you in harm's way, resulting in ugly consequences. But if you say the correct and morally right things, freedom of speech is one of the greatest liberties stated in the Bill of Rights.

Freedom of religion is another liberty from the First Amendment, which provides many opportunities for the culturally diverse citizens of America. There are many religions practiced throughout the world, and with America being the greatest country people migrate to America, bringing their own religious practices with them. With multiple religions, ranging from Christianity to Buddhism, there are a wide range of religious practices in our country. This Amendment allows all of these people believe what they want to believe, and not be persecuted. American actor Kirk Cameron said, "I believe that freedom of speech and freedom of religion go hand-in-hand in America." Freedom of speech and freedom of religion are equally important, because having these allow you to talk to other people about your beliefs. Freedom of religion is a great liberty stated in the Bill of Rights in the Constitution of America.

The First Amendment of the Bill of Rights is one of the most important Amendments because it provides some of the basic freedoms not stated in the Constitution. Freedom of speech and freedom of religion allow Americans to say what they want to say, and to believe what they want to say. Being able to have these freedoms is what makes America the greatest country in the world.

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