

What Does Freedom of Speech Mean to Me?

I think freedom of speech means you have the right to speak aloud on what you are passionate about whether it is about your rights as women, men, employees, etc. Being able to speak openly about what you believe in and love without facing any consequences is why America is so different from other countries. You don't have to go along with whatever the leader says; you're available to be yourself. In some countries, they only have one religion or only one way of doing everything, and if you dare defy the way things have been, this would be considered treason and you could be severely punished.

I acknowledge what the founding fathers did and how they place Freedom of Speech in the First Amendment. Freedom of Speech permits me to speak to others about my religion without any consequences (to an extent). Freedom of Speech also protects protesters. Protesters feel like they have a voice and they can talk about what they feel should change. People can go on boycotts and not be punished because they have a voice in America. Freedom of Speech is one of the things that makes America an amazing place. This is what Freedom of Speech means to me.

- Juanita-Charity Sakyi 2020