Freedom to Be Me

America is known as the great melting pot of the world. With so many diverse people from different nationalities living in this one place, one has to wonder what has attracted this varied population. From the beginning, the freedom from government interference concerning religion was the main attraction that America offers. This love of freedom has grown over time as Americans living in the United States value their right to speak their minds, publish what they wish, assemble together for a cause, and voice complaints against the government. As for myself, I cannot imagine being without one of these rights and freedoms protected in the First Amendment. All of these rights together imply that I am free to be who I am, and that is the most important thing that any individual person could hope for.

Some issues that are very controversial in today's society are those concerning the Establishment Clause. With so many people believing their own religion to be the most correct there are many instances of separation of church and state being violated. There are many who wish to bring their religion into schools and government because of how important it is in other aspects of their lives. While some very religious people can view the complete separation of church and state as a bad thing, it is actually something that I am very grateful for. Without the Establishment Clause my religion never could have been started. Without a separation between church and state so many people would not be able to worship their own religion the way they wish, and I'm very grateful that I can worship and believe what I wish. My religion is something that completely defines me, and the First Amendment is what protects that piece of me that is most important.
As people are very opinionated, the protection of freedom of speech and freedom of the press are rights that are treasured by Americans. I see these two rights as giving the people in the United States the right of expression. This is something that I value very much. One of my greatest joys in life is music. Music is my form of speech. Without music I would not be who I am today. Even as one single person in America who loves to sing in choir and take private piano lessons can love and give credit to the first amendment for protecting the right to freedom of expression, so should everyone else. Without this right, I would not be the same person I am today, and America as a whole would not be the same wonderful country without the freedom of expression.

Being just a regular teenager, one of the most important things in my life is being with my friends. Freedom of assembly may not be specifically referring to giving me the right to have what friends I wish, but it uses the same principle on a much larger scale. I am just grateful that in my own simple life I can gather with a group of people that share common interests; or rather hang out with my friends. I’m glad I can admire whoever I want and have the right to “assemble” with the person I look up to the most. Though it may not often be thought of in such simple terms, I have grown to really appreciate my first amendment protection of my right to peaceably assemble because I’m reminded of how lucky I am to have good friends.

Everything that is most important in my life can in some way be traced back to the first amendment. The establishment clause, free exercise clause, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, right to peaceably assemble, and right to petition the government are all rights that give each individual American the right to be themselves. The first amendment is what sets America apart as one of the greatest places to live. Having these
freedoms is what brings so many different people of different cultures and nationalities together into one place. Because of the first amendment, the United States of America can be the great nation it is, and I can enjoy the things in life that I love the most.