

How can one escape reality? Where can you go when all you want to do is disappear? Books! Books can give you an education, provide an escape from reality, and for some, give you a hope for things to come. The first amendment is our five basic freedoms, but to me, the most basic, the most important, is the ability to write; freedom of the press.

According to Webster's Dictionary, the freedom of press means the right to publish and disseminate information, thoughts, and opinions without restraint or censorship. It is beginning to seem that America is one of the last great nations with this freedom. I am grateful for our constitution, for our history books, for my Holy Bible, however, this essay is not to convince you of any political or religious beliefs, but to tell you that, without books, without words, my life is empty.

Some of my fondest memories have been in books. Dr. Seuss said, "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.". When I read a book, I imagine myself going to those places and experiencing those lives. I feel myself traveling back in time to the age of the dinosaurs, or going deep in space in a galaxy far, far away. Or maybe I'm back on earth in the apocalypse, fighting to survive. The written word helps me to experience things I've never experienced or can only imagine experiencing.

Sometimes, it's so much easier to reveal my true feelings through writing. It's hard for me to talk about my feelings, but I can write about them no problem. And I'm not the only one. Anne Frank said "I can shake off everything as I write; my sorrows disappear, my courage is reborn." When I write, I have the courage to say things that I normally wouldn't be able to say if I was speaking. I find it easier to confide my deepest, darkest secrets when writing. For me, writing gives me strength to say what I feel.

Everything that I talked about all stems from the first Amendment. It's because of this that I can have all these freedoms. I can express myself in ways I never could by speaking. I couldn't begin to imagine what it would be like if I didn't have these freedoms. I wouldn't be able to write what's on my mind. I would be forced to conform to whatever the government wants me to write. So I will always be an avid supporter of the first amendment, because this amendment lets me do what I do best: read and write.

In conclusion, that's why the first amendment is the most important amendment to me. I can write whatever my heart desires because of it. I am able to communicate more clearly with people. I can read about things that transform me into the person I am today. Just as Benjamin Franklin's epitaph read, "Just like the cover of an old book, its contents torn out, and

stript of its letting and gilding, lies here, food for worms". My life too would be worth nothing, without books.

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