

*Prompt: What is the most important right you are granted as a citizen of the United States? What are the particular benefits associated with that right? When you exercise that right, what impact do your actions have on those around you?*

I have chosen to use option #1. So here goes.

The most important right I am granted as a citizen of the United States of America is freedom of speech. Freedom of speech means that you can say practically any thing that you want to, with out getting into trouble for saying it. Freedom of speech also means that you can write or show whatever you want with out getting arrested for doing it. Freedom of speech means that you can express yourself however you want to. You can support something the government does not approve of, and you would not get in trouble for it. Freedom of speech means tat you can you say that the president of the United States is doing a poor job, and you do not have to worry about getting executed for saying it. Freedom of speech means that you can speak about what you believe in, anything at all, without worry, and anyone can listen to you at will, and have the right to agree with what you say. In election years you can tell people to not re-elect the current president to a new term, and the government would not be able to do a thing about it, even though it would hurt his chances to be re-elected. Freedom of speech is protected by an amendment in the Bill of Rights, which was made over two hundred years ago. I have heard of other countries in which you do not have freedom of speech. In those countries you can get in big trouble for saying certain things. Some things you might not be able to say in those countries might be that you can not say that the government is bad. You probably would not be able to say any thing bad about the president, dictator,

king, or what ever type of leader that your country may have with out being arrested.

You would not be able to say that there is a better way of doing things than the way that they are currently being done with out getting in trouble. You probably would not even be allowed to say any thing bad about the spouse or even friends of your country's leader and not get arrested. You probably would not be able to say that you like or agree with a country that your current country does not like, or you would likely be punished for saying it. There are many different punishments that you could get for saying what you believe in. One of the lightest punishments you could get would be to be thrown in jail for the rest of your life. In other countries, if you say some thing bad about the government or its' leader you could be called a traitor. If you said that you liked a country yours is at war with you would be arrested for being a traitor. If you were arrested for being a traitor you would more than likely be executed. The government would make it public so that everyone would see what happens if they speak badly of the government. Sometimes even your families would be killed for something bad that you said, even if they had nothing to do with what was said.

Freedom of speech is a good thing that many people in America take for granted. If it was taken away, many people would realize that what they took for granted was so important.