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The Importance Of Freedom

Finding freedom is one of my main goals in life. Freedom means the right to act, speak, or think as one wants without restraint. I've always wondered, "If I'm really free?" Recently, I realized freedom is much more than having independence. It's about being liberated in all aspects of your life. Since I started college, i've been on a quest for attaining mental, physical, and social freedom because in our society its subjective. In the United States, our country is built on freedom for all and we fight for liberty and justice. But our society has everlasting racism, discrimination and prejudice, which is extremely appalling. Our country uses freedom as a tactic to inspire other nations, when our own people aren't necessarily free.

Additionally, freedom in the united states exists, but to an extent. If you're black, or a minority, racial inequality runs rampant. According to the Urban Institute,"People of color face structural barriers when it comes to securing quality housing, healthcare, employment, and education. Racial disparities also permeate the criminal justice system in the United States and undermines its effectiveness". This indicates the lack of freedom for minorities to better their lives and succeed without having preconceived notions hindering their success. And on top of that, the criminal justice system is outrageously flawed. Recent killings of black men and black

youth have sparked much outrage about the lack of incentive by high authority figures for justice to be served.

According to the FBI's Supplementary Homicide Report, 31.8 percent of people shot by the police were black people. Many of the victims were abiding by the rules of law enforcement and were brutally killed based on prejudice. For instance the killing of Eric Garner, was widely publicized by the media for how brutal and violent the police were. He was strangled to death outside of a store and was pleading for his life because he couldn't breathe but the police didn't care. After all the family went through they barely got justice. Another example, is the killing of 12 year old Tamir Rice. He had a toy gun and the police were called to apprehend a violent man. The police shot him within two seconds of their arrival. They barely followed any protocol, before shooting him in the abdomen. These murders showed the lack of respect for black people/minorities as humans, that even kids can't play on their own without being under surveillance. It's an insane way to stifle people by making them feel confined to oblige rules as if their animals, that have to be tamed.

Moreover, in my life i've never felt real freedom, until recently. I have always been guarded by my mom and it really made me want to find my independence. My first taste of freedom was when I searched for my first job. It was exhilarating because I finally felt capable of doing something on my own. At times, I wonder if my mothers overprotective grasp sheltered me from the real world because of my happy outlook on life. I think she thought that it would drastically change based on society's views on minorities and our freedom. For instance, recently there have been reports around the united states of black girls/boys getting reprimanded, suspended or even expelled due to their hair not being suitable for their schools dress code. It's

crazy because these young children were made to feel inferior by their style of hair. These authority figures thought their form of expression was seen as to "urban" for their schools/work environments. It also shows that these children were forced to submit to these peoples wishes to appease them, which I completely disagree with. This only perpetuates the importance of freedom because people should have the right to express themselves.

Similarly to Malcolm X, I have grown to learn to embrace all aspects of myself and find some peace of mind because that's one true way to really find freedom. I have found my freedom through expanding my knowledge and yearning for new surroundings. Even if it wasn't by reading as many books as he did. I understand why he read so many books. To stimulate his mind, while he was in prison. Which in turn caused him to learn about the afflictions that were harming African Americans in white America. His resilience to not stop learning and trying to elevate, mentally, was his saving grace. His story inspires me to continue searching for more freedom in my life and it should inspire society because hs thoughts on many things pertaining to the world were really ahead of their time.

Ultimately, finding freedom is important to society as a whole because everyone deserves to express themselves. Freedom allows free will through mental, social and physical expression. The Malcolm X's biography excerpt inspires me to persevere for the rights of freedom for all especially minorities. He also advocates taking control of your life even through tough circumstances. Society should heed his words because he was educating the masses and helping black people and minorities that were oppressed.