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A citizen's right to vote is essential because it expresses a person's values and identity, it contributes to each individual's ideal society, and it allows people to exercise their agency and freedom. The right to vote personifies the freedoms that America stands for. Being an American citizen means being free. There is no king or tyrant to dictate a citizen's choices. Voting is a freedom that the citizens of America possess. It is a potent power that affects the daily life of all those who live in the United States. Through the proper use of this right to vote, America can have a successful democracy that is run by the people, for the people. But what does it mean to current and aspiring citizens?

The right to vote is crucial because it expresses a person's values and identity as expressed by the things that they vote for. When an individual votes for a new law, amendment, or political person, it shows what values and standards they support or stand for. Expression is a privilege that many countries and nations lack. In some unfortunate circumstances, residents of foreign countries are subjected to rule by kings or unjust governments. These powers dictate everything about the nation, giving no voice to the people. The people are left to abide these precepts, endure severe punishments, or leave, which sometimes isn't even an option. They have

no way to express their voice or their identities, which is a defining part of freedom. Citizens of America have the privilege, honor, and even responsibility to express themselves through their vote, by supporting their own personal ideals. Immigrants and others wishing to join this country look with awe at the abilities that many Americans take for granted. Foreigners *wonder* at the right to express themselves and to show what they stand for, when many of them lacked that freedom before. They have been oppressed, dragged down, and forced to agree with the rules imposed on them. When they become citizens, they can have the power to express what they believe, and to create their ideal society.

The right to vote is also important because it contributes to each individual's ideal society. When a person votes, it is like a tally mark or a point that goes toward that person or law. This contribution helps the position or law that they are voting for to win, thus creating more of the society or government that they want. If they choose to refrain from voting, they choose to omit their voice from the political proceedings. Rather than adding a stick to the dam, the person simply lets the river flow past them, not putting any effort into the change that they wish to see. Some may claim that out of the 328.2 million people in the U.S., one person's vote just does not make a significant difference. On the other hand, how is a building built? Brick by brick, wall by wall, nail by nail. Hundreds and hundreds of nails, or hundreds and hundreds of bricks. Each brick is significant to the building of a house, just as each vote is essential to the construction of American government. With each brick, or with each vote, a citizen not only helps to build the house of American government, but it shapes it in the way that that citizen wants it to be, using their agency.

In addition, a citizen's right to vote is imperative because it allows them to exercise their agency and their freedoms. When a person casts a vote for the law or person that they support, it

shows that they are free to choose who or what they want to lead them. Rather than a king or a tyrant, who takes away their freedom to choose whom they support, the act of voting is a choice, or an act of agency. Each individual is born with the right to choose, despite gender, race, ethnicity, nationality, or sexual orientation. Each human being has the physical ability to make a decision, and the 19th Amendment backs that by stating, "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex". America states that each citizen may exercise their agency by voting. If America were to restrict that right, the right to vote, it would essentially be denying the agency of its citizens, which they were born with, and all of the freedoms and privileges that this country stands for.

All in all, the right to vote is absolutely essential in maintaining the ideal society that America is! The right to vote is a major part of the democracy that America is and the democracy that the citizens desire. It is a freedom, one of the many freedoms that America is built on and a freedom essential to the voice of the people. Without this freedom, the government would take over and the people would have no choice in their leaders or laws! To outsiders and to citizens alike, the right to vote can express their values and standards, contribute to their ideal society, and allow them to exercise their agency and freedom to choose. As the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which grants a higher meaning to freedom in America, rolls around, let each citizen remember what freedom means to them and how the right to vote embodies that freedom.