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### What Makes America Great

Out of the 195 countries in the world, there is not one like the United States of America. I believe in the greatness of America and I believe that the world is a much better place with existence of our nation. Our country was established on the ideals of freedom, opportunity, and equality; and it is quite extraordinary that we still live by these principles over two hundred years later. It was the intelligence of our founding fathers, specifically James Madison, who was instrumental in crafting the two greatest pieces of American writing; the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution. The men who founded this country stood up for what was right and defended morality because they believed in creating a place where people came to be free. This standard is still in effect today and it is the devotion to these virtues that makes America great.

These values of freedom are exemplified in the way our government derives its power from the people. President Lincoln represented this core belief when stating that we are a “government of the people, by the people, and for the people.” Furthermore, the Bill of Rights enumerates what the government cannot do to its citizens; it cannot establish a state religion, it cannot deny people freedom of speech, freedom of press, it cannot quarter soldiers in your home, it cannot search your home or property without probable cause, and this is just a sample of what freedom’s America can guarantee. When writing the documents that govern our country, the founding fathers had one goal in mind; limited government. The genius of the framers of the

Constitution is unparalleled in recorded history. Since the Constitution was ratified, over the span of more than 200 years, only 27 amendments have been added. The fact that the framers had the foresight to create a system of government that would not only stand the test of time, but serve a nation that grew from 2.5 million (1776) to over 300 million today is truly incredible.

Further evidence of the greatness of America can be represented by the fact that when the Civil War occurred, the United States went to war within itself to set other men free. Our country tore itself apart in order to give freedom to the slaves who deserved equal rights; at this time in history, there had been no other instances of a war completely fought on the bounds of liberty. If it were not for Abraham Lincoln and the support of the Republican Party to defend their morals and stand up for what was right and just in the eyes of God, we would be living in a different place today. President Lincoln had to make a tough decision but he ultimately believed that our country was so great, that he was willing to go to war to preserve it. This is undoubtedly the best representation of freedom our nation has expressed and illustrates how America came to be the greatest country in the world.

Although our country is great, it is not perfect, but if you asked any American if there was another country they would rather live in, I assume their answer would be no. This country has had its fair share of problems and still does, but what makes us even better is that we recognize our faults and try our very best to repair them. In America, we will stop at nothing to continue improving our nation and protecting the freedoms of those who live here. Poverty, racism, education, and unemployment are just some of the problems that plague our society today, but America is always making strenuous efforts to eradicate these issues. We pride ourselves on the basic freedoms the stars and stripes were founded on, but we also pride ourselves on being able to face adversity and continue making America great.

The idea of the United States is so powerful that people from every country on the globe have left their homes with nothing but the shirts on their backs and what they could carry in their arms, to come to the United States for no other reason but to be free. This freedom would not be possible if it were not for the men who wrote the documents that govern our nation and for President Lincoln making the decision to preserve this wonderful place that we are fortunate enough to call home. American life is the best life this world has to offer and those who do not live here dream of the freedom we get to experience every day. It is these aspects that have proven our country to be great, but it is essential that we remain loyal to the ideals America was founded on and continue to be the land of the free in order to ensure that the United States of America will always be the greatest nation to ever exist.