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## Peace and/or Freedom

By definition, peace and freedom may have not changed over the course of history but growing up throughout the 21st century has allowed me to note how peace and freedom definitions are interpreted by different mindsets. Different ideals, values, and perspectives are curated by the environment that surrounds one throughout their life. Although these experiences may be similar no two are alike as individuals' outlooks are unique. These differences are what make answering what peace and freedom are today complex, it might look different tomorrow, it is something that is always changing because the circumstances, the institutions, and the structures that hold these concepts of peace and freedom in such high regard are evolving as well, so how could the effects not?

If we look back into the history of the U.S. the Bill of Rights was meant to protect the freedoms and rights of the American people from their government. That document was ratified over 200 years ago, yet the United States continues to actively use these rights given to the people to justify protecting their freedoms. Since the first ten amendments were ratified, others have been passed because of the social changes at the time. Take the 18th amendment as an example, which once was believed to keep peace in the nation was eventually overturned years later because some believed it violated their freedom to purchase alcohol. This image of what once was peace to some changed as some thought their freedoms, their rights, were being violated. Peace and freedom, although both are concepts that people work towards having are images that are difficult to have hand in hand.

As a teenager living through the United States' social change and politics over the past 3 years, my perspectives of peace and freedom have shifted from what I once thought they were. As a child, it is easy to follow and agree with the values of those that you consider your role models; parents, teachers, and television characters, but as one has the ability to comprehend and access educational resources, the latest news, and other facts, perspectives change. I have gone back and forth as to how peace and freedom are related and how they are different. From my perspective, my outlook on society, I believe that complete freedom will disturb the peace for all because the actions that would be justified by complete freedom can be harmful. On the other hand for there to be peace, tranquility in all aspects, the freedoms of the people would have to be regulated in some way which, historically, has always been met with a form of protest.

It is also important to note that this essay is written by a Mexican American who has the privilege of having different freedoms than those in other countries around the world because the United States has valued freedom since its founding. With that established, how could I understand the freedom that those in disadvantaged countries have? As I continue to develop my outlook on the principles of freedom and peace, today I recognize that there must be a balance in order to obtain any form of both even if they are met with resistance.