

Red Hook GOP Scholarship  
"The Power of Voting"

First and foremost, coming from a third world country, Paraguay, has enabled me to more distinctly understand the importance of voting. A fortunate country with so much freedom, the United States has given their citizens the ability to change the conditions of their town's roads or state tax rates through one simple process; simply by involving themselves.

The voting system enables citizens to become involved in the process of how things are run in our country. Voting for and acknowledging elected officials allow one to voice complaints to appropriate representatives. When a person votes for an elected official, they in return work for the person.

Through my travels I have taken into account the importance of voting and how it affects a country and its citizens. Not only does it give the country a certain quality, it also creates a more united atmosphere, which helps a country to be more productive and successful. It is crucial to take into perspective how in many other countries, a person does not have a choice. The majority would gladly change places for the fundamental privilege of voting.

Imagine if the right of voting no longer existed? What would people do? How would they deal with it? If this right no longer existed, the world would no longer exist as a democratic nation, it would turn entirely totalitarian. When one does not vote, one is giving their right away, which instead, is being given to the government. When one refuses to vote, their voice cannot be heard or partake in the decision making process of our country. More importantly, not voting takes away the "will of the majority that govern this country, but [replaces it with] the will of the minority" (Smithstein 1). The Twenty-fourth amendment to the United States Constitution states that the right of citizens of the United States to vote in any primary or other election shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State (The U.S. Constitution 54). Because of the creation of this right, every person is able to reflect their overall views and ideas.

A person can vote in order to send out information, to affect the country or world. Many races have fought for every individual's right to vote. Now that all races ultimately have gained this privilege, one should not show dis-appreciation for the sacrifices made by their ancestors. It would be a shame; and a very selfish act. Voting does not require much, and therefore, everyone must show respect for those who forfeited their own lives and freedom in order for our rights. It is one simple act that can have so much meaning behind it. One vote affects everyone. As citizens of the United States, one holds a commitment to their country, one should not deprive the country from hearing their voice. It is every citizen's responsibility to make the country a more unified place through the simple act of voting.

Thank you,



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