



*Freedom  
Requires  
Responsibility*

**Freedom Requires Responsibility**

Emma Gazaway

Student ID

Imagine School Land O Lakes, Florida

Home Phone Number

Teacher- Ms. Hawley

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## **FREEDOM REQUIRES RESPONSIBILITY**

There are a lot of things we do to achieve freedom. We need to begin with defining what "freedom" is, who is responsible for giving it to us, who controls it, and what the costs have been. These are important things we need to know as citizens of America. To maintain our freedom as people who live every day in the free United States, we have to work, go to school, and most importantly, pray to support the people who fight for our freedom.

What is freedom? The definition of freedom is "the state of being free or at liberty rather than in confinement or under physical restraint". Freedom means we have the right to go to church, or to protest in a peaceful way. We have freedom to do many things. In places like China they don't have freedom to talk about God, go to church, or own a Bible. To have freedom you have to be responsible by controlling your actions. Freedom means we have the right to vote, to have a gun, and to speak what is on our mind. So to have freedom you have to be fair, follow the rules, and consider the thoughts and feelings of others.

Who is responsible for our freedom? The men and women that were in all the wars such as the Revolutionary War, World Wars I and II, the Vietnam War and the war against Iran and Iraq are the people who are responsible because they chose to fight for our freedom. I have relatives that have been in two of the wars. My grandfather, Allan A. Gazaway, and my great-grandfather, George White, were both in World War II. My grandfather, Darrell Cook, and uncle, Glenn Byrd, were both in the Vietnam War. It's awesome to know the people in my family were fighting for my freedom!

Who do you think controls our freedom? I think it is us and the government. We control it by voting who is the best person to represent our needs. This is referred to as a democracy which means a system or country that is regulated by the people in which we elect people to represent us. We vote for a man to make rules for our country.

What have been the costs to make sure we have freedom? When men and women go to war, some people get hurt very badly and die. We should pray for them when they go so that they will be safe and so will we. We need to thank them because they risk their lives for us. So we need to pray that there will not be any more bad costs. Our cost is also money. We as individuals pay taxes to support our government and military when they fight for our freedom. We don't want to think about losing our freedom so it's our responsibility to do whatever it takes.

I learned the reason why freedom requires responsibility. Just because we have freedom doesn't mean we can do whatever we want. We still have to follow the law and do the right thing. The best way I can be responsible for my freedom is by following Christ's command which is "Love your neighbor as yourself". The Apostle Paul speaks about freedom in the book of Galatians 5:13-14 (NIV):

"You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; Rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."