

# I like living in a country that lets me have the right to choose

**By GABRIELLE OTTER**

We all just look at ourselves as everyday people living in the USA. But to many it's their dream to be here and to be free. We don't really know how free we are till we look at other countries. There are many things that make us have our freedom. They are that we are treated equal, we all stand as one, and we have a great military.

I'm first going to tell you that we get treated equal. No matter what race, age, or religion we may be, we are very lucky that we get accepted for who we are. Next reason I believe that we have freedom is because we stand as one. When the going gets tough or something bad happens to our country we all come together and help each other out. The last reason is we have a great military. When ever we need them to protect us or help us out they're always there for us no matter what. These are a few reasons that I think helps us be free.

**By MIKE ZINK**

What being an American means to me. Being an American means to have freedom and rights so you can speak when you want and how you want to speak. Some of the other rights we have are that we can own a business and not get in trouble with the business we have the right to make sure it is not illegal.

**By STEPHANIE SHEPARD**

Being free means a lot to me. To be free to me is to be able to do what I want when I want without being scared. I don't have to wear a scarf over my head, I can play sports, and drive when I can. I don't have to worry about being killed because of my gender or religion. I'm glad that we live in a democratic country, where the people have a voice.

**By BREYER SIMMONS**

Freedom to me is very important because it gives me the rights and privileges that make everyday life so much better. I am free to speak my mind, publish what I please and travel wherever I care. I also have the freedom to follow my own religion without being pressured by others, and be my own individual self. Hopefully I make the proper, true fit preferences. I as well as others am tempted to make the unjust ones. But that is my Freedom.

**By CHARLILAWSON**

Why do I like living in a country that has given me the right to be free to choose? Because I like to be able to do what I want and not be told what to do by other people. To be able to choose where I want to go where I want to live, go to school, and free to choose what I want to become. Living in American has many opportunities, and the right to choose is just one of the many.

I am very proud to be an American, and I thank all the men and women who have served, and are currently serving in the Armed Forces, for allowing me to have all of these freedoms.

**By KAYLA SCHEETZ**

When I think about being an American, it means freedom and choices. I am glad we have the freedom of choices here in America because if we didn't in some countries we women wouldn't have any rights. For example voting, education, having to cover our faces with a hijab (material that covers Islamic women's faces), we wouldn't be able to choose our career, sports and other activities. I'm proud to be an American citizen.

**By BROCK LAUER**

What being an American means to me, is that you have the ability to make your own choices and also that you can talk about what you want. The best part about being an American is that you don't have to say what the government wants you to say. Also you get to do whatever you want as long as it's not breaking the law.

**By MATT STANLEY**

I like living in a country that gives me the right to be free of choice so I can do what I want. I like being able to do sports and wear clothes that I like. I like the feel of being able to go anywhere

I want. If I couldn't do any of these things I would really be sad. I like being able to speak my mind about anything as long as its true. I like the feeling of being able to worship my own religion without getting in trouble.

**By JACOB VANSKIKE**

Freedom gives the opportunity to make choices on our own. It gives me rights and privileges. We can make choices on what to wear, whom to talk to, what to say and print, religion and where to live and work. Although we are free to make choices, wrong choices may have consequences.

Freedom is worth fighting for and many

people and country are not free to make choices. Freedom is important and it makes our country unique.

**By TAYLOR ROSSI**

Living in a democratic society is important to me because I want to have a say about what goes on in this country. In America, everyone's vote has as much importance as the next persons. If people don't like something they have a right to try and change it and many other countries don't have that chance. A democratic society gives people a voice and that makes me proud to live in America.

**Independence Day**  
*Celebration*  
**MONDAY, JULY 4, 2005**  
**Prairie Dog State Park**

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:**  
**8:00—Welcome by Emcee, Marvin Matchett**  
**FREE Watermelon Provided by Jamboree Foods**  
**Norton Boy Scout Troop No. 181 will present the flag, followed by the National Anthem and a patriotic message read by Mel Rice.**  
**Governor Kathleen Sebelius will be speaking about tourism promotion**

**AT DUSK—**  
**Gigantic Fireworks Display**  
*Sponsored by the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce*

Park Admission Required by Annual Sticker or One Day Pass — \$6.50 Per Car; Ages 65 and Older and Kansas Residents — \$3.75  
 In Case of Inclement Weather the Fireworks will be Delayed Until Tuesday, July 5