

What Makes America Great?

The United States of America is commonly referred to as a “melting pot” because of the diversified nature of its inhabitants. Since the beginning, it’s been a country to which people from all over the world would flock in an attempt to seek a new beginning for themselves. A crucial aspect of the American society is the ability and freedom that American citizens have to express themselves and contribute to the growing diverse population of Americans. We are a nation of individuals, each unique in their own way, together contributing to that “melting pot” society for which we are known so well.

America is a nation founded by immigrants, for immigrants. The foundations of America were based on a diverse group of people who came to the “New World” to get away from their mother countries; to seek a fresh start and a clean slate upon which to build their new life with the freedom to make it the way they want. Even today, as conflicts occur around the world, inhabitants from affected nations travel to the United States to seek refuge and an ability to create a better life. With such a diversified, multicultural population, we, as individuals, have the opportunity to share our own culture and partake in the cultures of others.

A key characteristic value of the American people is that we are entitled to the right to freedom of expression. Every person living in America is able and encouraged to express their

personality, beliefs, values, and opinions, and is offered the opportunity to make their life the way they want. We have the freedom to do as we please, so long as the laws that govern behavior are followed. The American culture allows each person to wear clothes that express his or her personal style; to make a living through a job you choose and work for yourself. It is also a culture that supports and provides an opportunity for passionate young people to move mountains for the causes they care about. We see examples of this in the news every day; Nadia Nazar and Jamie Margolin (a close personal friend of mine), co-founders of “Zero Hour,” an organization that urges youth around the world to fight the ongoing climate crisis; Cameron Kasky, Emma González, and David Hogg, founders of “Never Again MSD,” advocate for stricter regulations to prevent gun violence in the aftermath of the 2018 mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School that claimed the lives of seventeen of their classmates and staff members.

These are all examples all over our country of people exercising their rights and contributing to our American society. The diversity of cultures, opinions, beliefs, and values made possible by the freedom to express oneself is what truly makes America the great nation that it is and will always be.