

Brady Kondek

Ms. Kraynak

AP English Language

11 May 2023

For the People, By the People

The United States of America is built upon the pillarstone of freedom for all, giving us the rights and privileges to live our lives the way we want to live them. One of these rights is voting; for us to be able to choose who represents us in the government, allowing for our voices to be heard. It is the citizens that shape America into the country they want it to be, and we have to take action to get it there. However, we find ourselves in a time in which people are growing tired of politics, and want no part in it. Feeling that their vote does not truly matter, and really does no good. Democracy depends upon the actions of every person participating in such actions, so therefore it is crucial that all citizens of the United States do their part to vote in elections, and allow their voices to be heard; or otherwise we could find our country turning back into exactly what we fought against to break free from.

What makes America the truly magnificent country it is? It is the fundamental ideal that we the people are truly in charge of how our country operates. When our founding fathers established our nation, they endowed us the right to voice our opinions and be able to speak them without fearing negative consequences from above. Our government is established "for the people, and by the people," in that the government should work for us, and we have a voice in how it operates by electing people to represent us to make those important policy decisions. Therefore, it is our responsibility to let our voices be heard and elect those who align

with our ideals. To put things into greater context, let us imagine that we find ourselves in the midst of great economic trouble in America, and the majority of the citizens are unhappy with the way our elected officials are handling the situation in Washington. If we want things to change, we have the ultimate power during elections to remove those officials, and put in new ones who will fix these issues. However, if the majority of people stay silent and decide not to vote, then these problems will not be fixed as elections are entirely based upon who votes and the numbers of them; not based simply upon how people feel internally.

The true importance of voting, however, can be seen by going back through history. Before America gained its independence from Great Britain, we found ourselves under tyrannical control. Americans had no say in anything, and all the decisions came from a handful of people sitting on a throne in London. When we were struck with unfair taxes, what did we do about it? We didn't stay silent; we did something about it. When we ultimately wanted free from this tyrannical control, what did we do about it? We fought. We fought hard. Through that, we gained our independence, and became the United States of America, the land of the free. Through this, we see how we are the ones in control of our destiny and future; that we are truly the ones that shape our country into what it is. However, we cannot stay silent and hope things will change for the better naturally. We have to take the necessary actions and voice our opinions to truly see the change we want. Otherwise, our country could turn right back into the exact same tyranny we fought our lives against.

In the end, America is like no other country in the world. In America, you are able to live the life you want to live, and have the opportunity to live the American Dream, one of the most prized possessions anyone in the world could ever have. But with that, we find ourselves in the midst of great troubles, in which people do not truly grasp the power they have in our

society. Some feel that their voice does not matter, or just want no part in politics. While that is understandable, your voice needs to be heard. If you want change in America, you have to go out and get that change. Throughout history, we have rived through difficult times by sticking together as a country, and electing officials and voting on policies that allow our voices to be heard, and shape our country into what we want it to be. America would not even be America if it were not for us retaliating against the British, and putting our feet down and saying, "we don't want this anymore, we want change." So please, let your voices be heard. Vote for those who will bring the change you want to see. Vote on the policies that will better your lives. Your vote matters. Without it, the future of our great country may be at great stake.