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This country is only around three hundred years old. Its ideals, are constantly changing and improving with every generation. We pride ourselves with rights of freedom and engage in a constant motion toward the “pursuit of happiness”. The founding fathers had their own idea regarding the “American Dream”. They dreamt to serve the union between the American colonies and England. They dreamt a country clear of dictatorship and monarchy. Their dream was realized with the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The “American Dream” has changed over the years and has accomplished many feats such as the abolishment of slavery in 1865, African-American right to vote in 1965, and recently, the right of gay marriage in 37 states. To me, the “American Dream” means to succeed as a Hispanic minority, as a woman, and as an equal individual. The U.S. Constitution supports the realization of this dream with the Bill of Rights and the Declaration of Independence.

The Founding Fathers established an equality that was limited to white male citizens, similarly to ancient Athens. It was not extended towards minorities. However, in 1870 the fifteenth amendment was ratified. It ensured that the “right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied... by the United States... on account of race...” (Amendment XV). This right allows Hispanic citizens to have a voice in government matters. This empowers the growing Hispanic population to rise and gain power and confidence. My “American Dream” is to rise above common expectation and become a successful Latina. My “American Dream” is to be an active part of my country and execute change in collaboration with my generation. I want my voice to be heard, along with my Hispanic brothers and sisters. My “American Dream” is to

be acknowledged by and be part of my government, as it has been provided to me through the fifteenth amendment.

The Bill of Rights extends voting rights to women as well. In 1919, the nineteenth amendment was ratified. This amendment ensured that “the right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied... on account of sex” (Amendment XIX). This amendment enables women to have equal rights to vote as men do. This matters to me, as a woman, because I believe that women and men are equal. As a daughter of a single mother, I grew up with the mentality that women are not only equal to men, but can account for both sexes. My mother was both a mother and a father. She had to work excessively in order to put food in our bellies and pay for the bills. The Bill of Rights supports my dream by allowing me, to not only be acknowledged as equal to my gender counterpart, but to thrive as an independent being, rather than require support from the male populace.

The Constitution guarantees the opportunity to succeed, as it gives every citizen an equal amount of freedoms. To me success means happiness. The Declaration of Independence establishes that “all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” This Declaration permits every citizen to pursue his or her dreams at an equal state. This means that one can access happiness despite his or her race, gender, sexual orientation, or financial status. This applies to my “American Dream” of success because it rounds up my identity and allows me to pursue greatness without racial, sexist, sexual identification, or wealth orientated restrictions. It allows me free ground in which I can plant my seeds, and this allows my garden to bear powerful and worthwhile fruits. I am enabled, by the Declaration of Independence to pursue

happiness and success because it declares me as an equal participant in this country with equal and absolute rights.

My “American Dream” is to succeed as a Hispanic minority, a woman, and an equal individual. These rights are secured by the Bill of Rights and the Declaration of Independence and because the U.S. government allows such liberties, it is only up to me to execute actions that lead to my success.