

Marco Vazquez
Essay Content
June 1, 2015

The American Dream and The Constitution

The American Dream is perceived in many ways. It has empowered our hopes and aspirations to overcome obstacles. During the Civil Rights movement many activists like Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, and Cesar Chavez helped fight and grant equality for everyone. They have also created belief and confidence, which is what people strive for in the American Dream. The American Dream has empowered many of our hopes and aspirations due to the 1st amendment, which brought freedom of speech, 14th amendment, which brought equality, and the 19th amendment, which brought prosperity. That's why the American Dream is defined as in all the U.S documents, which are freedom, equality, success, and opportunity. Coming from an immigrant and low-income family, to us the American Dream has been refined by all the amendments that allowed us the opportunity to be successful and be treated equally under the constitution.

As mentioned, the American Dream has empowered our hopes and aspirations due to the 1st amendment, which brought freedom of speech. The first amendment along with the first 10 amendments also known as the Bill of Rights was enacted on December 15, 1791. The first amendment establishes freedom of speech, freedom of press, and freedom of religion. Without the first amendment, the government would impose and establish a national religion and religious minorities that do not follow would be prosecuted. Also, protesters would not have a voice or be able to contribute because they would be silenced by the government. What this amendment does is that it helps people with their version of the American Dream because it gives them independency and a voice that allows them to do things on their own without restrictions. This amendment is important to my meaning of the American Dream because it allows me and my family to have a voice and allow us to be given an opportunity without any restrictions. This allows my family to talk and protest for what they believe is right and gives them an opportunity to be part of U.S society under the constitution.

In addition, the American Dream has empowered us due to the 14th amendment, which brought equality. The 14th amendment to my family and me is the most important amendment because without it we would not be here. The 14th amendment addresses citizenship and equal protection under the law. One important section of the 14th amendment is the equal protection clause. The equal protection clause under the court case Plyer vs. Doe, in which the decision was that states cannot constitutionally deny students a free public education on account of their immigration status. This protection clause is a key factor for me in achieving the American Dream because without this clause I would not be able to attend school because of my immigration status. Without this amendment my dreams of becoming successful in life vanishes. With this amendment and protection clause I am allowed the opportunity to have an equal and fair education.

Finally, the American Dream has me through the 19th amendment, which brought prosperity. The 19th amendment was the culmination of women's suffrage in the 1920s and in which

allowed women the right to vote in the U.S. Without the 19th amendment we would not be equal because only men would be allowed to vote. This amendment is important to my meaning of the American Dream because it gives my mom the opportunity to vote and have a voice to make a change in society. This allows women to contribute to laws, rules, and regulations that help their children and generations to come, which is a big part of the American Dream.

In conclusion, the American Dream is due to the 1st amendment, the 14th, and the 19th amendment that brought prosperity. All these amendments have defined the American Dream and have empowered many of our hopes and aspirations to overcome obstacles and help us contribute to society without any borders or restrictions. This is the land of opportunities and many thank these amendments because the American Dream is due to all the hard work, the civil rights movement.