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Joaquin Moraga Intermediate  
3rd Place, Middle School Creative Writing

They tell us to speak  
With the freedom of choice  
They tell us to act  
With the power of freedom

Then they lock it all down  
With their standardized testing  
They say the worlds quickly changing  
So why haven't they taken away  
The school system dating back to the 19th century

Freedom is the right to speak  
"Raise your hand to be called on"  
Freedom is the right to think  
"There's only one way that's right"

Remember the days  
When we ran around free  
Without worry just glee

We would talk without sticking our hands in the air  
We would think about what we could be in the future  
Astronauts or a ballet dancer it didn't matter which one  
We had choices and we believed that they mattered

We were hopeful for what was to come  
Because we didn't have our futures being decided by a test  
What if we didn't have our worth measured by IQ  
What if we were free to be creative and free to learn

Where freedom wasn't limited to 45 minute breaks  
Where ideas could be shared without the worry of rejection  
Freedom is the oxygen that feeds the soul  
So school needs to let us breath

Imagine a world where school was a choice  
Imagine the future thriving with creativity  
Imagine walking into those big double doors  
With a feeling of freedom and a chance to explore