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The Truest Liberation
Grand Prize, Middle School Essay

Liberation. Each person has their own different views and experiences with it, but at its heart, it is freeing people from oppression and the chains which restrict their freedom. As humans living in civilized society, we really should have the right to speak, think, and act for ourselves, but it's disturbing how many people don't have these rights of expression. Even worse, people are still being abused for things they have hardly any control over, like their race, nationality, sexuality, or culture. The world simply has no place for all the shootings, bombings, and in general, hatred, when we must work together to help each other under the common name of humanity. To be frank, this kind of oppression is cold, barbaric, and inhuman, and liberation is the act of ending it. When I think about liberation, I don't see civil wars or insurgencies, because although revolt is sometimes inevitable, it is born from the same hate and callousness, just on the other side. The true evil here is not the oppressors, but rather the intolerance which plagues society like a virus, and the cure is education. In teaching people to understand, empathize, and love others despite what differences may be between them, we will have found the truest and most powerful form of liberation because it is the one that most genuinely changes the world for the better.

Our world is big. With six inhabited continents, 196 countries, and 7.7 billion people, getting everybody to empathize with one another is maybe the most monumental task ever undergone by humanity. Perhaps we will never be able to have complete peace between every one of those 7.7 billion people, but we can always work towards that utopia. It all starts with a voice, a voice which is willing to tell others to change, because as Malala Yousafzai said, "when the whole world is silent, even one voice becomes powerful." That one voice sets the ball rolling for everything, whether it be social change, government reform, or even changing the minds of the oppressors, and then that one voice will become a liberator. To me, liberation is fostering

kindness and empathy between each other because it is the lack of them which is the root of all human conflict and oppression.

It's not hard to become liberators ourselves, because it doesn't mean becoming righteous politicians and social activists; by striving to be human, by being empathetic towards the adversity of others, we are all liberating people from their chains, which are forged through ignorance and misunderstanding. We may not be able to "talk it out" with corrupt dictators and extremists and the like, and people may have to resort to violence to settle such conflicts and start fresh, but being empathetic is the step that we can all take towards safer countries, kinder communities, and better people. In working towards a world where everybody takes the time to understand and respect each other, the greatest act of liberation is achieved, because, in the words of Mark Twain, "there isn't time—so brief is life—for bickerings, apologies, heartburnings, callings to account. There is only time for loving—and but an instant, so to speak, for that."