

**What it Means to Me to Live in the United States of America**

Whenever the question, "What does living in the U.S.A. mean to you?" is posed to anybody the response is always centered around the countless opportunities afforded all the inhabitants of this marvelous nation; in short, the belief that the "American Dream" is still alive and well. I happen to be one of those that still has faith in the thankfully not-so-elusive "American Dream" the concept that if one has the proper drive, determination, and the adequate skill set then success and comfort is easily within one's grasp. But as delightfully accessible as the "American Dream" is it cannot be reached without one's own ability and intestinal fortitude. And America is precisely the country in which one can harness one's abilities and unleash one's full potential. With a sturdy education system which provides all Her students with a legitimate chance to learn all that is humanly possible and hopefully translate that wealth of knowledge into a steady, comfortable livelihood; and as fantastic as a such a thought is the very possibility that it can realistically be achieved is what is far more remarkable. It is this worldwide heavily sought after concept that that injects me with such hope in America, the opportunity to excel, and though that may not sound like much, it is in fact the most important thing a society must have, because if the people lack faith in their nation's infrastructure and believe that despite all their stress and hard-work their stagnant predicament will lead only to devastation and ruin that society will rapidly descend into a state of perpetual chaos and anarchy, bereft of any possibility of working itself out of the depressing darkness that is society sans opportunity. Luckily for us living in America has spared us such physical pain and mental anguish. We are spared life in this state of catatonic

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paranoia because even those unfortunate enough to be born into the worst manner of backwoods squalor can look up to those living life awash in riches and prestige and wholeheartedly believe that such prominence is not just a cruel pipe dream. This is exactly what America means to me, I do believe that if I productively apply myself and have good and true intentions triumph and self-actualization will follow; and more importantly than I the rest of the complex and ever-changing American diaspora holds this truth to be self-evident which keeps the beautiful promise of the "American Dream" running like a well-oiled machine of hope and discovery for generation upon generation. So I write this scholarship request with my head held high and with my soul enriched with the always cleansing tonic of hope because I know that deep in my heart of hearts I hold a belief which not even a strike from one of Zeus's devastatingly accurate lighting bolts could shake that this shining country, this land of the free and home of the brave still keeps its avenues of success and prosperity open to all those who are willing to pay the price of champions but who also believe that paying such a costly price will pay great dividends en route to that highly coveted mountain-peak otherwise known as the "American Dream".