

The Importance of the Bill of Rights

Without the Bill of Rights, we would be living in a world of unfairness, government control, and no individuality of the people. The U.S. Constitution is a set of rules and laws that every American Citizen is to follow. Yes, it states what you are not allowed to do and the “no-nos” of the US but has a whole lot of what the government can do. So, you can think of the Bill of Rights as a limit to the government’s control and something that protects our rights as American citizens.

Full government control is something that almost everyone fears at some point. The fear that a policeman might arrest you for the way you look or the way you dress. Or soldiers forcing you to nurture and care for them. The world *could* be like this, we *could* be discriminated against and mistreated just because someone has a higher status than you. The amendments change all of that in a way so that everyone can live their lives free and unique. Take the third amendment for example, this guarantees that any soldier may not take shelter in someone's home without the owner's permission. In that case, the owner does not have to house them. People had an issue with this during the 1700s. With the wars, soldiers, even ones from the enemies side were allowed to force entry and take shelter in anyone's home. How would you feel if without your permission, someone strutted through your front door and made themselves comfortable? You would feel disrespected and it would defeat the purpose of living in this free country.

Everyone knows the world isn’t fair, but guess what makes it better? The Bill of Rights! Let’s say that you commit a crime. Wouldn’t you want the trial to be fair? The sixth amendment is there for you! The sixth states that you have a right to a speedy trial. That means that there will be no unnecessary delay. Also, you are allowed to have a public trial which ensures that others are watching to make sure that the government officials are abiding by the law. One of the final components of the 6th is that you are allowed to “confront” the witnesses who saw you commit the crime. Just like when you are writing a research paper, you need to corroborate to see if the information you have read is true. When you have committed a crime, having another person tell your story from their point of view may help you to have the fairest trial possible.

One of the most noticeable things that is present in a dystopian society is the lack of individuality. Being a U.S. citizen means a lot, but one of the biggest things is the fact that we have freedom. We have the Bill of Rights to thank for that one. Freedom is a lot of things. Freedom is being able to practice the religion or language of your choice. Freedom is disagreeing on something wrong, and being able to assemble and protest. Freedom is being able to say what you believe is right and what you feel needs to be heard. Freedom *is* you. All of these things are part of our uniqueness as individuals. It is our individuality. Think about it. Without this uniqueness, this individuality, we would be controlled and used as puppets of the government. Do you know what is really cool too? There is even an amendment that says we have even more rights than the ones listed on the Bill of Rights!

Government control, unfairness, and no individuality would be the state of the US if not for the Bill of Rights. People would not be able to do things that are unique to their personality like speaking or practicing a language. People would not be able to say things that they believed to be true or assemble to protest against something that is wrong. Trials would be unfair and based on bias or how someone looks or what they say. The government would have control over

what you do and say and how you live your life. You would have to conform to letting others push you around with no right. As you can see, the Bill of Rights' whole point is to give the American citizens the right to have a fair life with rights. Without it, we would not be living in the world we do today.