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What Democracy Means to Me

Built from our Constitution, democracy has consistently been a pillar that has held up society. Since gaining independence from Britain, the voice of the people has fundamentally been the key to shaping a political system where public participation determines the future of our nation. With democracy making ground-breaking decisions that impact people's lives, such as the fight for women's rights, landmark rulings such as *Roe V. Wade* emerged after the public fought for control over women's bodies. These decisions were only possible due to the freedom provided by democracy and the government's duty to serve the people.

As I approach the age of 18, I aim to contribute to society by taking advantage of my right to vote. It is important for everyone from different backgrounds, ages, and races to participate, ensuring equal representation at the polls. Our political system has evolved over time with the passage of key amendments: the 15th Amendment, granting African Americans the right to vote, the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote, and the 26th Amendment, lowering the voting age to 18. The U.S. Constitution, ratified in 1787, continues to evolve in response to the needs of the people. As we move forward as a democracy, the future holds growth and the potential for a more inclusive political world that encompasses a broader population.

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