

Religious freedom is important to me because some of my ancestors were Jewish and Jews had many troubles, disagreements, and wars between other nations that didn't believe what they believed in. Religious freedom means a lot to other people, not only in other countries but in the U.S. as well.

The United States of America has a Constitution and amendments (the first 10 known as the Bill of Rights) in these documents it gives everyone the FREEDOM OF RELIGION. Another important reason people came to the U.S. was not only to have the freedom of religion but also to be able to have the choice whether or not to choose a religion, meaning you have the opinion. Religious freedom means that people have the *freedom* to worship and believe in whoever they want to believe in and however they would like to believe it. Pilgrims are one example of people who traveled for religious freedom, they traveled from England to America to depart and separate from the king's rule of telling them what they have to believe.

Jewish people really appreciate religious freedom, being Jewish is really important and we are proud of it but not only are we proud but we show that and even though during the time of the Maccabees the Syrian Greeks wanted the Jewish people OUT, we still studied the torah and worshiped what we believed in. Another example was when Hitler captured Jews in Europe and sent them to concentration camps where most were killed (over 6 million paperclips were gathered as a sign of respect and were made into a memorial for the 6 million Jews that were killed) So even though Jewish people have had the miseries that they should not have had we still stand together. That is why the freedom of religion is important.

People living in the U.S. can trust and not worry about, being fought against or killed because of what they believe in. People may disagree with you but they can't harm you because of that. Everyone can be treated equal even if they have different religions. I am Jewish and all of my closest friends are not but they still make it seem like we are all the same they help me blend in, I don't stand out because of that. A way you can summarize this is by saying "don't judge a book by its cover" Recently Barack Obama was made president elect. Obama is black but that doesn't mean that his color affects what he believes for our country. Religious freedom is especially important in

the United States because people come here from all over the world and being here and knowing that you had the freedom to religion really makes someone feel like they belong here. The United States is an example of a bridge not a wall because it welcomes people to "cross the bridge to religious freedom" and not have a wall stopping them.