

We Deserve It

Imagine peacefully protesting in 1919 for your natural rights and having tubes for food excruciatingly shoved up your mouth in a lonely prison cell in return... and then think about all these citizens not bothering to vote a century later. People of all genders and skin colors have fought arduous battles for liberties that we take for granted, such as *voting rights*. The two words seem minuscule, but their power is much greater than we can comprehend. These eleven letters were won for our country. The actions of so many courageous individuals won these eleven letters for our country, yet less than 60% of citizens turn up at the polls today. Everyone should vote to honor past sacrifices and make a better world for now and future generations.

Throughout history, battles of all sorts and sizes were fought because people understood that natural rights were worth fighting for-- for themselves and posterity. Do not forget the countless U.S. citizens who gave their lives or were wounded to defend the constitution and what it stands for. Or the women suffragettes protesting for years in hopes that they would be treated as equal citizens. The slaves considered property until 1865 and even years after that. Think of our 1,639,532 active duty service members fighting to protect us every day. Of the scores of people-- in Hong Kong, Chile, Moscow, and other places around the world-- *still* desperately fighting, praying, and pleading for the most basic of human rights. Yet so many Americans watch TV rather than go to the polls. How can you disregard every honorable sacrifice? Vote for those who fought and those who are fighting, they deserve it.

Furthermore, voting is a way for each individual to shape their country. Citizens deserve a say in their country, and countries deserve input from their citizens. There's enormous potential in that little slip of paper you put into the polls; your voice could ensure the future years will be in a world you want to live in. Voting is a peaceful, easy, and impactful way to express strong

opinions you may have about the government. As Dwight Eisenhower said, “The future of this republic is in the hands of the American voter.” Voting is not just a right, but also a responsibility... if you do not vote, how can you complain about an outcome you dislike? At the polls, every single person can make a difference. So, vote for someone or something you believe in, such as global warming prevention or gun regulations. Vote in 2020, in 2024, in midterms-- whenever you can.

I will forever be grateful to the women suffragettes who redefined our country, and I cannot wait until I have the opportunity to use their gracious gift for the generations to come! Thank you to the millions of citizens that cast ballots to improve our future. Wear that “I Voted” sticker as a medal of honor... *you* deserve it!