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Presley – 6<sup>th</sup> Period

Voice of Democracy Essay

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### “My Responsibility to America”

“I am in earnest—I will not equivocate, I will not excuse—I will not retreat a single inch—and I will be heard.” William Lloyd Garrison. In a day of technology and social chaos, we grow tired, dependent, and selfish. It is easy to forget how things once were, all the sacrifices made. If one makes an effort, he will find he has duties laid out before him through time. Our duties are these: To respect and acknowledge our humble and burdensome upbringing, and to uphold the advisories mentioned in the Declaration of Independence.

This land, like a beacon, calling our ancestors to its gleaming shores, holds the whispers of history’s past and the hope of a new tomorrow. “A city upon a hill,” he said. “We shall be as a city upon a hill.” (Winthrop, "A Model of Christian Charity", 1630) This land, which gave us our shelter in times of hardships, deserves our undying respect. The very earth on which we walk was toiled upon by farmers, bled upon by soldiers, and built upon by visionaries. The amount of courage in the foundation of our America is unsurpassed; God help if it shall ever be. Winthrop, Hamilton, Washington, Lincoln—men to whom we owe great thanks and eternal gratitude. Behold the injustices of the Africans and Natives, for not acknowledging their strife would be as great an injustice as pretending these atrocities never happened. Our history is in the walls of the White House, the waters of the Mississippi, and in the dirt of the West. History made us who we are; it is our responsibility to keep it preserved.

Men from all walks of life came together in the foundation of our country. (Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, 1995) They left behind a set of guidelines for which we should follow: The Declaration of Independence. These men were knowledgeable in their craft, passionate about liberty, and they fought for what they thought was right. There is one line which speaks truer than all others: “But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and provide new guards for their future security.” (The Declaration of Independence: Full text - US History) Those who have the ability to do something, have the responsibility to do something. This rings true in every aspect, from declaring our independence to standing up for those not able to do so themselves. We must show our American pride. When the time arises for which we are called to “throw off such government,” we must be ready. It is one of our greatest responsibilities.

Our forefathers gave up everything in order to create this land for us. They left a document to guide us, in which they advised us to go in the ways of the land of the free. It is our responsibility to respect their sacrifices. John Adams said: “I must study politics and war that my sons may have liberty to study mathematics and philosophy. (Adams, 1780)

Citations

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