

I believe finding yourself is one of the best and hardest things anyone will ever do in their lifetime. Trying to write 300 words about what I believe in was almost impossible for me and took me longer to write this small essay than most other essays for school. Maybe it was so hard because it is open ended – I get to pick the overall topic. The last time I was able to pick the topic of a paper I wrote was in middle school. I just finished my sophomore year of college, meaning 14 consecutive years of schooling and 3 left. Is all that structure good for anyone, especially in the search for who you really are?

I believe in the 1st Amendment, especially in the freedom of speech. I know that I have the right to express my feelings through speech. Speech is powerful – it can bring people together and tear them apart. Words can lift a person's mood or tear them down; words can speak directly to a person through song or prayer. There is freedom in words and expression. However words must be used responsibly. There is great weight in words – in a book, a poem, a song...

Picking the right words is key, knowing exactly what to say and when to say it. I think this comes with age, and when you truly find yourself. When you know who you are, you can hold strong in your beliefs and the statements you are saying.