A VOTE, A DREAM

Voting. That thing you have to do every once in a while. As you plump yourself on your couch after a long day of work and see candidates debating on TV and you think, why is voting so important. Why do people take so much time just deciding on who or what to vote for? I’ll tell you why. Because voting represents us and who we are, it helps us take part in our democracy, it keeps freedom alive, it helps people, it helps the environment. Voting is what keeps our country standing up high, it helps our economy. Without voting why would the citizens in a country even matter?

Still don’t think voting is important? Ok than let me help you think again, but for me to do this we will have to travel back in time to 52 BC, the time of the Roman Empire. Pretend that you are a citizen living in Gaul (modern day France). You are talking to your friends outside while gazing out into the horizon when suddenly a loud voice comes up from behind you, you look back to see where its coming from and you see two soldiers behind you, they are part of the Roman Empire. A warrior called Julius Caesar has taken over your kingdom and has come to take you as a slave. Sounds very cruel doesn’t it? Well that’s because it is. But unfortunately these types of things were very common in ancient times. There wasn’t anything such as voting before so whoever took over your kingdom was your leader until they died or someone else took over.

Voting helps you decide on who you want to lead your community. Even one vote can make a huge difference. What if someone that wasn’t good at their job became president? They can make unfair laws or even ruin the economy, and a ruined economy is not easy to recover. Also voting makes you feel important. Think about it, all of those people have lined up talking their hearts out, participating in debates, going on TV shows, listing campaign promises, all just so that you can vote for them. Without voting your leader would just go about what they think is right and will not care about anyone else’s ideas. But when they are trying to get your vote they will listen to you, your concerns, your suggestions, your ideas, and think them through before deciding. Voting decides on our country’s future, by voting you will be deciding on the future of the generations that come after you, what type of environment they will be in, and whether they will be happy or not. Remember a vote isn’t just a mark on a piece of paper. It is a dream, it is a decision, it is a book that’s cover has not yet been lifted, it’s a treasure waiting to be discovered, it is a new page full of ideas, of memories yet to come. It is a belief, it is a promise, it’s a commitment, a mark in history, a plan.

So next time you go behind the desk to vote, hold your head up high as you make your mark into history, as you decide on the future. And never forget a vote never is just a piece of paper, it is a world full of possibilities, and the keys to that world are clenched tightly in your hand as you drop them into the box with all of the other keys in it, keys to different ideas and perspectives. And as you walk away think about all of those people who are going to be thankful for what you did. And always remember; a vote isn’t just a piece of paper, it’s a dream.

NIHAL ZEHRA EREZ