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The Human Voice

The human voice. It is a powerful weapon and a powerful tool of peace.

The voice has been the beginning of revolutions, the first spark of romance, the herald of knowledge, and the call for unity for centuries. Today the public voice resides not in a single person or group but in the media, and it is through the media that we are able to receive many of the benefits of living in a democracy. No matter whether it is through a news outlet or a young person of color crying, “I can’t breathe!” our voice—our free voice— is crucial.

I personally am a debater. I have participated in speech and debate for my entire high school career and can personally attest to how impactful words can be. I have spent countless articles examining articles and reports from stations such as The New York Times or The Guardian. With each article I read, I learned more about the world around me. I learned how to form my own opinions based on the information available. I learned how vital the media is. Free media allows for the public to learn. It allows for the political theory of the uninformed voter to be disproven and allows for the education of the masses. Furthermore, it is through this education that the masses learn how to share their own voice.

I don’t think people truly understand how impactful their voices can be. Given the right platform, a single voice can lead to countless changes. As a member of the LGBTQ+ community, I have seen this first hand. The ability to speak freely about pressing issues and report the voice of the minority is not to be taken lightly. That is the job of the press. To give a voice to those who get left behind. To give a voice to those who the government has ignored and refuses to hear. The media gives minorities the platform to share their truth and struggle. Thus it is even more important that their voices are shared honestly.

The final and main way the media benefits a democracy is as a watchdog. It is imperative that accurate information is given to the public so that they

are aware of policies, actions, and statements that may affect them. As blatant as it is the media is a form of protection, whether those in authority agree or not, it is there to keep those in power in check. So the media must not only have the means to report accurate information and combat fake news but also the voice to share that information.

A free media is a voice for the public. It's time we realize how truly powerful our voices can be. Our voices have a right to be heard, and to speak out against injustices we see. No matter whether it is through a news outlet or through your voice a free press and media is crucial for a democracy.