

**Grades 5-8**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place**

Jimena Castillo

Rison Elementary School

6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Hey Maggie! I haven't seen you for an awfully long time. How are you, and how is your family in Austria? I have a paper due next week on the Bill of Rights, and I don't know what to write. Do you know anything about that topic? If you don't know anything about the Bill of Rights, let me tell you what I know about the Bill of Rights.

The Bill of Rights are the first ten amendments to the Constitution. They were ratified and added to the Constitution of the United States in 1791, because the people of the U.S. felt like themselves as U.S citizens weren't protected enough and also they would know when the government wasn't protecting or recognizing their rights. The Bill of Rights is very important to our democracy, because it protects the basic rights of all humans. The Bill of Rights was drafted in New York city, where the federal government was operating out of Federal Hall in 1789.

The person to thank for the Bill of Rights is James Madison. James Madison was the fourth president of the United States, but before he was the president and the writer of the Bill of Rights he was a planter. Did you know that James Madison is the "Father of the Constitution"? He helped write the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. I love that James Madison wrote the Bill of Rights and the Constitution for my country and its people.

The most important part of the Bill of Rights to me is the freedom of religion. The freedom of religion is the most important right to me, because it means I can worship god in my own way. Also I'm a catholic and if there was only one way to worship god I would be lost. It is also important to me, because I want other people to be free to believe whatever they want to believe and to always be faithful.

The protections provided by the Bill of Rights impact our everyday life. They impact our everyday life by providing the freedom of religion, speech, press, ect. That means you can do anything you want in life as long as you follow your heart (and laws).

There are lots of fun facts about the Bill of Rights. Here are three facts that I think are interesting. The first fact is that there were originally twelve amendments to the Bill of Rights, but two of them were never ratified, because the anti-federalists voiced strong objections to it therefore congress couldn't ratify them. The second fun fact about the Bill of Rights is that there is actually a Bill of Rights Day. The Bill of Rights Day is celebrated on December 15! Did you know that the writer of the Bill of Rights, James Madison, thought that it would be useless to even have a Bill of Rights? Well he did, and I'm so glad he changed his mind! There are lots more fun facts about the Bill of Rights! Those are just the ones that I thought were the coolest.

So you see Maggie, that's why you should really know what the Bill of Rights is, what it does, and why you should know what it is. I really love the Bill of Rights because it protects me as a U.S. citizen and other people that are visiting like you. The Bill of Rights are the most astonishing ten amendments ever put in the Constitution of the free United States of America.