

## Second Place Sixth Grade

Ashley Cho

621

May 2018

### First Generation, What Does That Mean?

United States of America has been known to be the most diverse country on Earth for many different generations. However, many kids are first generation Americans, but what does that mean?

As a first generation myself, I tend to struggle to fit in with the American society. My family immigrated from South Korea and they expect me to be an American on the "outside world" and Korean on the "inside world". To be honest, it is more difficult than it sounds. I always felt that being a first generation American is difficult since my parents demand high expectations and exceptionalism from me. People expect me to eat American food, but instead I eat the same bland Korean food. It's not because I hate my culture, I actually do respect it, but I just want to try new things since the world is too big and life is too short. The United States of America is a country of freedom, and I felt like I should use that to my advantage of exploration and adventures of the unknown.

To be a first generation American in my eyes, is to honor those who sacrificed themselves to give provide us liberty. From General George Washington to our modern heroic Marines, their loyalty is to defend our country. The next time you see a soldier, make sure to say: "thank you for your service."