

First Place Fourth Grade

4-210

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What does it mean to be a first generation American

Do you have a relative that is a first generation American? Being a first generation American means to be someone that was born from another country and immigrated to America. My dad, grandparents, and my uncle are all first generation Americans. They immigrated to the United States from Hong Kong in 1990. I asked my dad a few questions about his experience being a first generation American and here are some excerpts from my interview.

My dad said immigrating to America gave him a better chance to succeed. There is a better chance getting a higher education in the United States if a student has to will to do so. In Hong Kong, only top students can go to college due to a limited spots. Living in Hong Kong made my dad feel like he was amongst a bunch of fishes in a very small bowl. America is large and vast. It allows everyone to have free will to create their own destiny.

Freedom and liberty is the foundation of the United States Constitution. It is a concept that may not be easy to grasp. People only recognize it when they either gain it or when it is taken away. My dad learned to celebrate being a free thinking individual. He has the freedom to conversate and to associate with people whom he agrees or disagrees with. This is what makes my dad most proud to be an American citizen.