

## **CRITICAL THINKING PAPER 2**

How Would You Define Freedom?

Is It Different From This Chapter's Definition?

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I define freedom as being able to achieve to full potential without any limitation. Freedom is being free from economic oppression, poverty, free to accumulate knowledge, and the ability to think, free from sanctions and mental slavery. I believe freedom means sovereign and autonomous. Freedom is considered a state of having free will and not being enslaved or be confined, (Oxford Dictionary).

I consider freedom as like a tree in the forest, very quiet and peaceful without any constraints. The tree is not affected, disrupted, or manipulated by anyone, when the wind blows the leaves, it goes any direction it chooses and then falls back to its original position. Freedom is free as a bird that can fly anywhere it chooses without consequence or being judged by society. Freedom is generally free to act, to express, or do whatever one chooses. On the other hand, humans are not free, they are responsible for their actions. Charon believes that human beings have a limited degree of freedom instead of complete freedom in our society.

Charon and I have similar views on freedom, even though he has an additional elaboration. I believe to be free as human beings we should be able to have economic freedom in being able to acquire property and live wherever we want to live without any restriction or prohibition. I believe we should a society that is economically free with the government allowing citizens' rights to own real estate property at their desired location along with regulating the law of any corruption to prevent them from living where they choose. There should be a law in effect against any prejudicial treatment of their neighbors. We should be free economically to be able to start a business or expand a business regardless of where, as long as they respect the law and each individual and have economic stability, they are free. Once there is free access to economic wealth for those who have been impoverished, then they will no longer be economically oppressed. Once there is such freedom there won't be any reason for governmental intervention.

Businesses and owners will be more successful and there will be capital gains, economic freedom, there will be more productivity in our society, and more capital gains. Persons will be able to make economic decisions more freely and have economic freedom in society without any limitations.

I must acknowledge and commend Charon for being candid in his book. I must accept the fact that human beings are like robots. Charon said, “sometimes there is no opportunity in our community to understand certain knowledge, we learn little” (Pg. 112). This fact is expressing the importance of freeing our mind and having the ability to think and understand a combination of experience and knowledge. If we have an understanding or experience, how can we be free? With this being said, without freeing our minds, we will be in mental slavery. I remembered once reading a book and the author was illustrating at one point in his life, he was illiterate, and he had a determination to learn to read and write. He was a slave so; he was prohibited from education. Once he was no longer a slave, he became literate. He highlighted the fact that once he was no longer illiterate, he had a better understanding of what it is to know and why he was prohibited in learning to read. The moral of the story is to limit certain human beings from gaining knowledge and to keep them enslaved mentally. Once there is knowledge, no one will be able to manage freethinking and understanding.

Knowledge is power and cannot be taken away. It is important to think freely and to have the knowledge, so we will be able to think logically and be able to analyze any situation. We will also be able to evaluate circumstances and would not be easily manipulated. When we gain knowledge, we will be able to process and know the difference between acting active or passive. Knowledge is bringing awareness and sharpens reasoning ability.

Freedom is living in a country that all their basic needs are met, including food and schooling without any complaints. Charon said, “class will influence the schools we go to and the jobs we can realistically consider in life” (Pg. 120). This idea makes a lot of sense, because if someone is raised up in certain neighborhoods, they will have limited education due to the class of people in that particular area. Of course, those people’s language and behavior will be different based on the form of education they received. These issues most definitely will affect their social position; their knowledge will be limited and will also influence their social class identity and will scare them for life. Now, they are trapped there is no escape from such life style, they become a product of their environment. This type of life gave them no option of freedom, and is very little they can do to control their activities in terms of criminal behavior. Reason, because they have no knowledge of how to be logical and to analyze situations. This life style As Charon expressed class is similar to socialization. Depending on what class we form in, we will be associated with prestigious individuals such as lawyers or doctors, or fall in a category with food service workers or a person with a long criminal record. Many people are not as free as they want to be due to poverty they grew up in so, that decreases their level of success in life.

In conclusion, Freedom is not perceived as it should be. I learned that there are many types of freedom. The definition of freedom may be different depending on who is giving the definition. This book is very interesting and informative on numerous social issues. I have absorbed them in my spongy brain and will be able to utilize them in the future. In the society we are living in, freedom is difficult to achieve and maintain. As stated in our reading, many people are forced to be in a certain class, because of poverty. While some are forced, because of their environment, knowledge, and education due to limited economic resources. Society decides and

controls our thoughts and this made me realize that we are not mentally free. We are not free from poverty, accumulate knowledge and the ability to think independently or free from sanctions and mental slavery. Ultimately, my understanding is there are different degrees of freedom stated in our readings, also society informed us that we are free to choose, however, we are responsible for our actions, so we best think wisely. Therefore, we should assess the true meaning of freedom otherwise, we will then misconstrue what freedom means in society. We must be mindful that freedom is not as simple as it is. We as a country have fought for our freedom even though it's limited we still have some rights. There are some laws that constrain our limitations in society because it is good and bad in the equation of the bigger picture that gives total freedom.

## Work Cited

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