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7th Grade

 Patriotism means a lot of things to a lot of people. For some, hanging a flag might be a sign of patriotism. For others, it could mean having the ability to go to church and worship as they choose. I can sum up what patriotism means to me in three words; Pride, Sacrifice and Hope.

Pride is defined as “something that arouses a feeling of great satisfaction”. Pride in our country means that we are grateful for the land that we live in and we want to show our pride in the things that we do. This can include when we say the pledge of allegiance, when we wear red white and blue on the fourth of July or sing the national anthem. Some people think that doing these things represents a belief in something that doesn't exist anymore. I think these are things that a patriot does to show their pride in America.

Sacrifice means “giving up something valuable to you to help another person.” This is a great example of what our soldiers do. They give up their time to defend the freedoms of other people. Some soldiers even sacrifice their lives so that we can go on living the way we choose here in America.

Hope is believing that something can be better than it is. I think the founders of our country had an expectation that America would be a great nation, a place where people could share ideas and express themselves freely. I believe that they intended for us to use our voices and our votes to make the country a better place for everyone.

Patriotism is expressed through our pride in our country, sacrifice for others, and hope for the future. I believe it’s what makes living in America great.