Trenton Taylor

Freedom to me is the ability to make decisions about how you run your life. These decisions should be completely unrestricted as long as they do not result in the injury and or harm of another person. To live in a free society means that one is able to dictate how they allocate their resources. With regards to how my freedom should be balanced with the wellbeing of my larger community, I believe that my own personal freedom should take precedence over the wellbeing of the community. While it is important for the community itself to prosper, I am not simply a member of a community. I am an individual person with individual needs and wants. What benefits the community may not benefit me. This belief of mine also extends to the nation. It is important for the nation itself to function, but my own personal freedoms should be left intact. I personally do not believe that my economic freedom should be purposefully constrained to make others better off. Yes, I do feel for people worse off for me, but the giving to others worse off than me should be just that, giving. I should not be forced to participate in charity, that degrades the very meaning of charity itself. If part of my income is going to those less well off than me, I want it to be of my own volition, and I want that income to go where I see fit, not where someone else sees fit. When interacting after college, while I will, of course, consider the wellbeing of my local community, I will prioritize my own wellbeing and freedom over that of the community, as I feel everyone else should. I came to have these views because I hold that if everyone in a community prioritized bettering their own conditions and lives, while not interfereing with anyone else freedom, this will lead to an overall improvement of everyone’s lives. By seeking to better all of our own individual lives, we end up improving society as a whole.