**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Reflection 1**

I listen to “The Most Sacred Right” NPR episode on Fredrick Douglass. This was an empowering and fascinating articulation of misrepresentation of democracy. Someone’s ability to “vote” is a critical component of American rights and the pursuit of freedom. Learning about Fredrick Douglass’s opinion about the Declaration of Independence was educational because he believed in the first 4 principles: “liberty, equality, population sovereignty…and the right of revolution.” This was something that I have never been introduced too or at least remembered. Allowing everyone, especially minorities, to have equality and liberty to vote allows people to protect themselves against various threats. Fredrick goes on to say that the right to vote is the ultimate sacred form of protection which is becoming apparent in this past year more than ever. People do not vote as individuals, rather voting is a group effort.

Diversity is also emphasized in this episode. Fredrick Douglass was amazed, as am I, by the fact that the United States can create a republic of people with all types of ethnicities, culture, and beliefs that live under the same constitution. We must allow all people to feel inclusive and we do that by giving everyone the same rights, implementation of same laws, and same opportunities.

The battle over the right to vote and implementation of the same laws is bloodshed filled. This has been a constant battle for minorities since the civil war. It’s a wave of improvements and then declines, but it’s worth every inch of fighting to move forward because the slow, teeth grinding advancement is improving quality of life. Another empowering statement that resonated with me is when they said that the freedman, African Americans in this case, just want the government to protect them, give them fair play, give them the right vote, and then they will take care of theirselves. This is exactly what I believe our society wants currently, we want strip away “white privilege” and live in an environment of safety with fair democracy. This experienced has been eye opening and changed the way I have thought about the right to vote, I know it’s important but didn’t realize the emphasis I should put on it.