Snowden did what he felt was the right thing at the expense of his own image. He knowingly opened himself up to controversy as soon as he made the decision to release this information. Some people say that Snowden is a traitor, but what he did was educate the public. Releasing classified information about what the NSA was doing made the public aware. United States citizen can decide for themselves what they think about the NSA with this knowledge.

The information Snowden released in June, 2013 shed light on what the NSA was doing with regards to monitoring U.S. citizens. Snowden’s recent decisions sparked discussions of what guidelines, if any, the NSA should have in regards to monitoring its own citizens. This program of monitoring the public in the effort to catch terrorists and drug dealers has had some success, therefore, the NSA should be able to monitor to some extent. However; the idea of the government being able to know your every move without your knowledge has created some distrust.

Even though no one is likely to ever go through that stored information, it bothers citizens to know that everything they do and say electronically is recorded and stored. Citizens constantly wrestle with the question at which point does personal and national security become a higher priority than liberty. Americans believe in liberty but they also *need* security. And in effort to stop terrorism, a cause obviously designed for the security of everyone, having that information if someone becomes suspect is in the best interest of everyone.

Did Edward Snowden do the right thing? Snowden wanted to make the public aware of what the NSA was doing. He went through the proper channels before he spread the information to journalists. He sent letters to the NSA about the ethics of what they were doing. Releasing this information was a last resort when nothing else got through. He made this information public for the same reason you tell on someone. He did it for their own good.