

#1 - The Teenagers' Declaration of Independence

It has come to my utmost attention that we must redirect our nation into the right direction again. One where we stand as equals and not opposites. One where the rights and privileges are no longer unequal to those living in this great nation that we call our home. It is consequential for us to change, if we have any hope of this country moving forward. We've have been endowed by our creator to make this life he has given us worth it and important.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all human beings are born with rights, among these are life, liberty, speech, and property-that to protect these rights. As well as not being overloaded with homework, no mandatory phy ed classes, longer passing periods, better WIN levels, less restrictions when you get your driver's license, off campus lunch and for school to start later. Institutions created by adults use their powers with the consent of the agreeing people. However, if any institutions abuse their power and deprive the people of their natural rights, then it is our right to modify it, and to form a new institution, in which accommodates the needs and rights of every person. For people to alter such institution, we must have strong reasons to act boldly against it.

- I. The ongoing struggle for every student is the overload of homework piled up on us every single day. It is a deathly feeling to come home from school and have hours of Math or Chemistry homework just waiting for you. Especially on the nights of games/sporting events. This is exactly why there should be a homework exception for athletes who are doing well in school and are maintaining their grades as well as no missing or late assignments . Not only is it the most frustrating feeling to get home from a sports game at 10:00 pm and have hours of homework ahead of you, after already having a long day. You then need to wake up at 6am to get ready for another long day of everything all over again.
- II. Almost every person can relate to the dreaded phy ed class that everyone is required to take. Nobody wants to waste all their extra energy during the day after already having to try and stay awake after working on three hours of homework, once you get home at 10. Sometimes working on it into the small hours of the morning. Athletes should not be required the 1.5 credits of physical education classes to graduate high school. As long as they are active and participate in their sport, that should be able to count as their phy ed credit. It's a struggle every year to fit in the classes you

want every year but the feeling of anger is unbearable when you come to find you spending hours on end on homework.

- III. Would it be so hard to extend our passing period by just one minute? The feeling of panic when you leave the class you just had in the north wing, to then have to book it to the south wing for my next class is unbearable. Having only a mere four minutes to go back to your locker to put away and grab your things for your next class. On top of that someday's having to go to bathroom as well. You now have three minutes until you need to be to class and are rushing to go to the bathroom, just so you aren't marked tardy for your following class. If we could just extend each passing period by five minutes, it would be greatly appreciated so then we could have a few minutes to at least breath and prepare for the next class.
- IV. When talking to other schools in our area, 99% of their schools allow for an open campus lunch. Yes, Spring Valley does not have a mall with a food court or other towns such as Baldwin. Although we do have subway and majority of the student body lives within a 5-10 minute radius of the school. It could work just like WIN levels, if your on green level you're allowed to leave school during our lunch period. This would allow for some of us young adults to have at least a decent meal a couple times a week!
- V. Every teenagers' much anticipated milestone is getting their driver's license and having a new found freedom away from their parents. After passing the driver's test we receive a probationary driver's license. Which is okay for the first two weeks but then we run into the very unreasonable restrictions that are put on us. Why should the law be able to tell us when we should be home and how many people can ride with us? Why can't we drive from 12-5am (unless we're going between work and home and or school) when this when we'd be and friends houses and getting ready to drive home. The solution to this problem would just be letting our parents sent our rules, not the law. Our parents should be the ones deciding when we need to be home and the parents of our friends should be the ones deciding if their child is allowed to ride with us or not.
- VI. A simple request by all students would be to have optional WIN/study hall time. Students who have no missing assignments and are getting their homework done in a timely manner should not have to sit in a classroom they don't want to be in wasting 45 minutes doing nothing. Instead of basing WIN levels on grades, base it off of completion of homework. Maybe you're a student that gets ALL of your homework done and handed in on time, but test are hard for you to take. If your trying your absolute

best, then you shouldn't be punished. WIN levels should be based off of completion of homework, not your grades.

- VII. I firmly know that every student agrees the school days starts at a unreasonable time. This institution endows us the right to sleep in until a decent time in the morning. After a strenuous night of homework nobody wants to wake up at 6am in the morning. Instead we as the student body could be granted an extra 45 minutes in the morning to sleep, by pushing back the schools starting time. It would only take cutting each class back by about 5 minutes. Which wouldn't be an issue as the last 5 minutes of class are given to us anyways to do whatever we want! Everyone student in the high school would 100% assent to this change.

In all of these unlawful acts, we have called out for a dynamic movement in the most peaceful way. However all of our efforts for change have been disregarded. An adult whose entity is emblazoned with tyrannical attributes are not fit to lead our lives. We as the representatives of adolescents around the world declare that we must have independence from the tyranny of adults. All human beings are created equal; therefore, we as teenagers have the right to form our own institution with our own philosophies.