

## *10. Teenage Declaration of Independence*

When in the halls of Spring Valley high school, you begin to notice that among all of those students that there is talk about things that we want as a whole, teachers find it hard to not overhear students and find it hard to believe that what the students want is only so we can excel in school better than we are already, we want the requests we suggest so all of the student body is happy and all get along better than we do now.

**We** believe that we should be allowed to count one of our sports as a gym credit if we're in a sport. Gym should not come before any other class we need. The students are all still physically active through the school so they should not be forced to take a gym class if they need another class in order to graduate. Do you sports players believe that would be a good idea? Of course you do it would only be fair to you. We are willing to work harder in practices to get this right.

**We** suggest that we have the right to an open campus lunch if the student has their license. Students will be responsible to getting back to school before 6th hour begins. If they aren't back they will just have an unexcused absence for the entire afternoon or until they return. If they are not back then they can get two warnings and the third time they could serve a detention.

**We** declare homework free weekends. School is for the weekdays and we have lives on the weekends. There's no time for school. Students shouldn't have to have the stress of school more than they already do during the school week. Weekends are for hanging out with friends or spending time with family. We should not be required to bond over schoolwork. We would get all of our homework turned in on time during the school week.

**We** have the right to get work permits so we can leave at 2:30 for a job. All we have is win time then anyway so there is no reason why students can't leave to go to work. We need to make money and we aren't going to do that sitting in school when we don't have to be. We can do our homework at home during the week. We don't need a study hall during the school week, except for on Fridays so we can get any schoolwork done we need too since weekends would be required to be homework free. We are willing to not go to work everyday but at least a few days a week.

**We** believe that we should have the right to leave school at 2:30 so we can get driver's education hours in for driving. We would still be with the driving instructor and that should count as being in school as long as you tell your win teacher in advance that you are driving that day. It would be easier to get driving hours in since you would be in school when you left to go driving. I mean

that would just be fair to students. We are willing to not take advantage of this and only go once a month.

**We** demand to be able to carry our backpacks from class to class. The hallways are always so crowded by our lockers that sometimes we can't even get to them. If we could carry our backpacks we wouldn't need to go through the hassle of needing to break our way through the crowd of noisy high school students just to get to our next class before the bell rings. It would simply be easier to just have all of our books with us so we are never close to being late. We are willing to not carry everything in our locker with us.

**We** declare being able to eat food in class. School is so stressful and us students are always completely and utterly starving since the school doesn't give us big enough servings at lunch. We are high school students we need to eat more than a sixth grader. We should be allowed to have snacks in class so we can concentrate on school instead of thinking about the food we want to eat when we get home or the food we are going to eat at lunch. I mean I'm pretty sure every hungry student will think about food instead of schoolwork. It's what people do when they're hungry. We are willing to not bring full meals into the classroom.

**We** propose that the only way a student can become truant during the school year is for unexcused absences. If they're excused absences that means our parents knew we were gone for whatever reason it could be. We may of had the doctor. Maybe we had a family member die. It's also possible that we were on vacation. Whatever reason it may be our parents knew that we would be gone. Us students should not be marked as truant for our parents knowing that we would be gone from school that day or days. We are willing to not miss too many days of school and let our parents write us notes.

We the students of Spring Valley High School have requested all of our suggestions. We told the staff what we wanted and hopefully they will allow us to get these rights we have as students. There is no reason of not getting these rights since we know that we will be punished for breaking some. You staff members have heard what we had to say, we voiced our opinions, now let's make them happen. We pledge to each other as students to not break any rules of these new rules, our attendance record, and our GPA.