

#11 - The Declaration of Teen Independence

There comes a point in time where we, the teenagers of the United States, see the necessary actions that need to be taken. We need to dissolve the bands that are holding us back, and make known the rights we demand hence God has bestowed them onto us. We need to grasp the new beginning and start over becoming the best people that we can. We demand a change but that won't happen if we are holding back. Now out of respect for mankind we will declare the causes in which we feel the need for a separation.

We the teenagers of the United States, hold these truths to be self evident, that all people are equal, that all people should be able to live their life how they want to, that we are endowed to unalienable rights which are Freedom, a substantial education, and the pursuit of no semester tests. We the teens of the United States are now demanding that we see a change come to better this world; our world. We have sat around way to long taking all the punches that have even been thrown at us. We are done. We will now use our voices and demand to be heard. The time has come and we are more than ready for it.

They have taken away our right to open campus lunch. We are forced to sit here and eat the food we are served, bring our own, or to starve. Is it fair to control what we eat when we literally spend at minimum eight hours a day, five days a week here? No.

They have taken away our right to choose a free period. Colleges allow students to have free periods, and isn't high school supposed to prepare us for that? It is, which is why it doesn't make sense as to why we can't also have them. There are a very limited amount of classes to choose from; so by taking free periods away we are forced to choose classes that we don't even have interest in. Resulting in us just stressing even more verse if we could just have a free period where we could go home or have a study hall.

They have taken away our right to be understood. We say this in the way such as when we are late to school we get a detention. For example if your car breaks down and you're late to school you get punished for something that is completely out of your control. Another example is if we try to talk to an adult, sometimes we get completely shut down to the point where we don't even get to express how we feel. It makes us feel like we are trapped in a room full of people but no one is listening to what we want to say.

They have taken away our right to equal treatment for all people. They have taken it through ways we cannot control ourselves. An example would be last names. If you have a "bad" last name you are more likely to be called out on things. Favoritism is a huge thing that happens and effects all teens through their school years.

They have forced us to take semester tests which unfairly weigh our grades. Semester tests and unmanageable homework greatly stress every teenager out. It adds unneeded stress onto

the already barely manageable schedules that we have been balancing. Not to bother mentioning how we are shown with the challenge of choosing between a healthy social life or trying to get all our work done to do well in school. Teenagers days consist of at minimum eight hours at school not counting any work, sports, or club activities after school. Yet, they still expect us to be involved, get all our homework done, and get at least eight hours of sleep.

They have labeled us teenagers as these treacherous human beings. Ageism. It needs to end. We have constantly put up with adults judging us about what they hear about one person; one teenager. They created a stigma; now we have become the stigma. You never hear the good things we do. All that is talked about is how terrible we are.

They have kept us on a leash so we don't wander too far. They have added driving restraints and curfews. Can you technically go to a late movie on a weekday? Nope. Curfew could get you a ticket if you're caught. On the contrary, once you pass your test you are only allowed to drive one other person or else you are breaking the law. Is it really fair to let us gain some self-independence to only have it capped? No.

We, therefore, the Representative Teenagers of the United States of America, have assembled, appealing to the adults of the United States that we feel the need it's best to carry out the above listed clauses. We are not who we are labeled as. We are people just like anyone else. We are the generation who are ready to change the way things are. We are ready to take on the hardships that will be followed by success. We are ready to pledge our lives to each other, change, and the United States of America.