

# Declaration of Teenager Independence

In the course of human development, it's become necessary for the students to disjoin ourselves from the bountiful demands that teachers expect from us, and explain why we deserve different freedoms in our place of work. As we have been oppressed, it requires us to riot against the ways in which we oppose and cause some ruckus to get what we deserve. We deserve the basic rights with have always been bestowed upon us and not to be shackled and treated as a toddler, in this time we chose to suspend ourselves instead of you doing it for us.

We, the teenagers and students of Spring Valley High School, hold these truths to be quite obvious, that all teenagers have basic rights such as making their own decisions for their lives, the pursuit of happiness, liberty, and pressing the obliteration of semester tests. In order to protect our god-given rights, we must nullify and form a new institution, one where we're not strung along and treated like puppets by adults. In the case of multiple infractions, we are forced to stop being slaves to our elders. We have compelling reasons we want to breach all ties, we're done being treated as less than whole. We want respect. We want equality. We want rights. We want change. We want a voice. Therefore; we must disaffiliate against the dictatorial reign. All valid reasoning, let these truths be told.

They have forced us to take semester tests, which are proven to do nothing for you but make all your grades go downhill. Through the semester we take multiple tests and quizzes to prove we understand the content. One big test at the end of a semester on everything we learned doesn't prove anything besides how well or not you can remember frivolous information we most likely will never need again in our lives.

They have forced us to take many mandatory classes leaving our choices limited. We all want to go into different careers so forcing us all to take a bunch of classes we will never need after high school is foolish when instead we can pick classes that'll help us more with our future endeavors. We appreciate the multiple things we are taught but we want more personalized classes.

They have us punished for the weather by adding on to the school year. The weather in Wisconsin, especially the winters, are as unpredictable as the future. We, the students,

should not be penalized for something as dicey as the weather. We have as much control over the weather as a toddler would have control over a multi million dollar company. We should be allowed some leniency on the number of days before we'd have to make them up. These make up days take one day away from our glorious summers.

They have us forced to come to school when we're not feeling good mentally because mental health days don't exist. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, 1 in 5 students will have, or currently have a mental illness. If we have sick days for physical illnesses why not for mental illnesses? We, the students, come to school for 8 hours a day, some of us play sports, some of us have jobs, then we have to go home and do homework. Those are long days, and doing that day after day can be physically and mentally draining. We deserve mental health days.

They have us conform to what they deem as appropriate. As a young adult we should be able to know how to dress and be trusted in that we will dress appropriately for our environment and age. Dress codes only cause kids to want to rebel. As an adult would you still want your mommy to tell you what to wear? We dress according to today's trends. We dress according to the weather. We dress for comfort, and occasionally we dress to look good and we're sorry if our shoulders are distracting to you.

They have us stay trapped in this cement lock up for 8 hours. We have to get up at ungodly hours to come and sit in desks and be perfect robots for 8 hours. As growing young adults we should be getting a lot more physical activity then we do, sitting on our rumps for 8 hours could cause muscle atrophy. We demand less hours in a school day or more opportunities to be physically active.

They don't listen to our opinions and suggestions. As our minds are learning and growing and we're experiencing new things, we have creative minds and can come up with a lot of new ideas or suggestions to make Spring Valley High School a better place for student and staff alike. Although we think of new ideas, due to the administration, our ideas are constantly shot down or not respected or taken seriously. All we ask is not to be so quick to write us off and possibly consider our ideas. We work with your requests and are guinea pigs for your ideas, we could be respected enough to have our ideas taken into consideration.

They level us based on our grades. The WIN level system has some flaws. If you are a red level student you should be required to travel to meet with a teacher or tutor in a class you are struggling with. This could really make the struggling students get extra

help, and possibly get their grade up. Also yellow level really has no absolute purpose, all we can do is travel to the library. Instead we should have two levels: if your grades are good, you can travel wherever and even leave school early. If you're struggling in some classes you are required to meet with a teacher or tutor until the grade gets up.

In all of these horrendous acts, we have asked for a measly bit of leniency as our requests aren't so much to ask for, however, we are continued to be disregarded as having a voice. The administration who refuses to even look upon and consider our requests is not fit to be a leader for us. We, the students of Spring Valley High School, declare we must have independence from the dictatorship that is Spring Valley. Teenagers like us deserve the same respect as adults; therefore, we regret to inform you that we were forming a new institution where we will be heard and respected.