**#20-Declaration of Teenager Independence**

When in the course of human occurrences, it becomes an absolute necessity of the utmost essence for a group of citizens to sever and disband themselves from this sovereign union; and to take grasp of the new threshold that has been growing on the horizon for them for the last nearly twelve score years and especially the last few decades, that God has bestowed upon them and that they shall take grasp of, an adequate reasoning shall be given in respect to their oppressors as to the corrosive injustices that make them feel it is time to separate.

We, the teenagers of the United States of America, hold these truths to be self evident, that people of all ages are equal, that they all should be allowed to make and reform the decisions that can alter their lives, that among these are Freedom, a quality Education, and the pursuit of a Homework-Free Weekend. We no longer desire to be under the blanketing shadow of oppression that our elders have cast over us. We demand age equality. We demand more power. And most of all, we demand change. Adults have abused their powers by committing a multitude of offenses. That ends today.

They have refused us the simple right to vote, a right most wholesome and vital for this nation. Is it fair to quench the political power, influence, and prowess of our generation whilst bumbling fools make heedless choices that have intense consequences on our futures? Our oppressors regard us as near equals, but refuse to give us the equivalency of the right to vote. Have they fear that we are uneducated or ignorant? We suffer from the same problems that they and the rest of the world does. In order to earn this privilege, teenagers will have to prove that they are active members of their communities by either doing a certain amount community service of holding a job. A new demographic altogether will form with the addition of the teenage voter. New and different needs and concerns will be brought to light and an intrinsic benefit will be instilled in youth for centuries to come.

They have forced us to have a general education that requires unnecessary and frivolous work, when not only do many know their likes and dislikes, but also their calling and career path. Perhaps this is why our country is slowing crumbling catastrophically while others prosper? The aspiring marine biologist or engineer should not be held back from trying to begin their specialization at a younger age. The benefits that this has on every student, those who can and cannot attend a postsecondary education, are enormous. In order to earn this privilege, teenagers will have to take an aptitude and skill test to see if they are educationally fitted for their desired career path. No longer will our education be a sort of bargain where kids are able to coast through and barely meet already low requirements.

They have forced us to yet again submit to their oppression by creating curfews that dampen our rights. Perhaps the extension of the aforementioned curfews will reduce the adolescent desire to rebel. A new standard curfew shall be set that is later than the one currently in place. In order to earn this privilege, teens will have to kindly assist in following the rules and allowing a smooth transition. This will be done by having them make sure that certain tasks like chores and homework are done prior to their departure and updates are given to their parents.

They have subjected us to long stretches of rigorous and exhausting school days. The primary problem with this is the fatigue that results from it. Teenagers are at important stages in their young lives, and proper rest is needed for the exceptional performances required of them. For that reason, we propose that students can take one day off each month to relieve stress and recuperate. In order to earn this privilege, teenagers will have to maintain a set academic level and integrity. Not all students will be allowed this right, but rather only those that fit the set criteria of a 3.4 GPA and a written essay explaining why they deserve this right. With this additional privilege as an incentive, performance in the classroom will prosper.

They have required that we attend strenuous and dreaded five day weeks. With weeks that are extensive and stretched out, teenagers are unable to enjoy their weekends. A four day week would not only give students more time off to relax and recover, but also more time to participate in activities, travel, and work at a job or around home. In order to earn this privilege, and for this change to be effective and beneficial, the remaining four days of school will have to be lengthened to make up for lost time.

They have subjugated us with tremendously burdening loads of homework. This keeps teenagers from enjoying their lives to their fullest. For teenagers, especially those that are very involved in their school and community, the homework load should be lessened. In order to earn this privilege, students will have to be involved in school activities, whether it be football, marching band, or a quiz team. Students that are not involved in anything shall have the same amount, but as a reward for participation in extracurriculars, exemplary teenagers will have less homework.

They have baffled and angered us with their institution of semester tests that are completely irrelevant, but weigh grades ridiculously. We demand the removal of these ludicrous and absurd tests. Teens do not need, nor do they deserve, the extra stress that comes with them. In order to earn this privilege, teenagers will be required to take more quizzes and regular tests throughout the semester that are administered by their teachers. The removal of large tests that are unlike any life situation will benefit teenagers tremendously and lower stress levels as well.

They have intimidated us with terrible threats of punishments and interrogation for the most minor infractions. We are not asking for, but instead requiring change to this corruptible system. Is it fair to us that we are repeatedly threatened while our own parents often times commit the same offense? Our parents should realize that we are the victims here. From now on, teenagers will have more independence and lobbying ability in punishment situations or any other time when they feel unfairly treated. In order to earn this privilege, teenagers will still have to hold themselves accountable for actions and make acceptable decisions. They should realize their unjustness and they should correct it.

They and their cruel teaching cohorts have subjected us to morning after morning of early rising for the sole purpose of being under their reign of tyranny. This must end. School days will no longer start at ungodly hours of the morning before the peaking of the sun over the horizon or the morning dew moistens the grass. We declare that the new school day will not start until the ninth hour of the day. In order to earn this privilege, teenagers will go to school until later in the day, but that is acceptable for our cause. Scholarly studies have shown that our cognitive functions and focusing aptitude will be boosted significantly.

They have forced us to scrounge for every last penny and dime we can find. That is why we demand a government imposed allowance. Teenagers will receive a small amount of money every week to help themselves stay financially secure. The money can be used toward their education whether it be secondary or postsecondary, pumped back into our tumultuous economy, or invested for the future. In order to earn this privilege, teenagers will have follow societal laws and not have any problems with law enforcement. Additionally, teens will learn some very valuable lessons about financial literacy with the granting of this right.

We, therefore, the teenagers of the United States of America, in English class assembled, ask for the carrying out of our intentions, and with the approval of teens everywhere, solemnly declare that we have the right to reign over ourselves, and put the laws stated in this article in place. Teenagers now have all of the powers of adults and therefore must comply with the same rules that they do. We are not the sons and daughters of our forefathers, although we are bold, brash and innovative like them. Nor are we the sons and daughters of any past civilization or culture. We are a new generation. A generation not complacent with its standing in society. One that knows its rights and responsibilities and that is willing to do anything to secure them. As the future of this majestic and powerful nation, we are establishing ourselves as a group of leaders and world changers. And, for the support of this declaration, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, lunch money, and our sacred honor.