

#22- The Teenage Declaration of Independence

When a group of superiority abuses its power and takes demanding control over its inferior counterpart, it is just that the organization lacking in power should decide to separate from the group devouring all of its freedom. But when this decision must be made and is made in a reasonable and fair manner, it should be clearly communicated the reasons for which separation is insisted.

We, the teenagers of the United States, demand these truths to be self evident, that people of all ages should respect each other, that we, teenagers, should be given the freedom to experience our childhood, and that we should be given the ability to learn the basics of life for ourselves. Among these basics are who we are, who we'd like to become and in what way we plan to become that person, how to make choices for ourselves, and how we will decide to fit into the world around us. Being denied these rights can do nothing but harm us, and we will no longer accept the injustice or the tyranny applied to us by the adults in rule over us. We order that we be given these rights and that we be given the ability to speak for ourselves. The reign of adults controlling our lives is over.

They have viewed us as lesser than they are and display this attitude by speaking condescendingly towards us. Adults even have the nerve to convict us of being the disrespectful and obscene generation when they hold no respect for us. Many do not spend any of their time with us, but they automatically judge us as lazy, ungrateful slobs. They complain that we aren't respectful. Respect would include not judging before experiencing, How can they hold us to a standard that they themselves do not fill?

They have quenched our curiosity of life by pressuring us to decide every factor of our future before we graduate from high school. We are pushed to decide what college we'd like to attend, where we'd like to go after high school, and what career we'd like to obtain all before we even graduate from our schooling. How can we decide who we'd like to be when we haven't experienced the world around us? Most of us are barely able to encounter anything other than our school lives, but there is much more to life than school. The teenage years are supposed to be used to find out our identity, but we are not able to because we are wholly occupied being terrified of our supposed lack of preparation for what is to come.

They have required us to learn in an area that is unfit for learning. The designs of our schools are geometric, impersonal, and unwelcoming. It stunts our learning. Demanding that we go to the same claustrophobic, restraining classrooms day after day, hour after hour can only hurt our capabilities. We trudge into school like cattle being lead to slaughter. Being swamped with

educational, physical, and social requirements already drag students down. Confining us for what seems like hours on end and trapping us with these requirements tears us down even faster.

They have forced us to engage in classes that can be embarrassing, inconvenient, and infuriating. Obligating us to take a Physical Education course is absurd. Many students don't feel confident when playing sports and physical activities, and many teenagers don't want to be forced to fit a Physical Education class in their schedule. Wouldn't it be more beneficial for them to take classes they actually care about and classes that will impact their desired future?

They have forced us to participate in a curriculum that is impersonal and unneeded for many students because they won't take the time to find out what each individual needs in their education. By doing this, they have restricted our learning process and stunted our individuality. Students spend over half of every week day in school. This time could be used for learning the skills they need to have what they would define as a successful future. Instead, they are forced to all learn the exact same basics with little opportunities to branch into individual studies.

They have taken their stiff and restrained curriculum and complemented it accordingly with irritable teachers who further advance the never-ending spiral of dread and contempt in students' minds. The consequences of this action is a growing hate of classrooms, lessons, and learning for students. Many teenagers struggle to keep their positivity intact without the presence of a hugely negative figure in their lives every single day. The drag of attending the same classes every day is often substantial to rip the happiness out of a teenager's life. Adding negative teachers to their experience can only tear them down farther.

They have built on the arthritic curriculum that is already paired with grumpy teachers and forced upon us a workload that is hardly bearable. We drudge through the assignments given to us while we're already drowning in extracurricular activities like sports, clubs, and work. Expecting us to forge through the schooling thrown at us and come out successfully educated is entirely unreasonable.

It has become apparent that we, the teenager of the United States, are being controlled in the aspects of life where we desperately need freedom. To live a life dictated by someone else is hardly living life at all. We do not ask, we do not beg, and we do not plead. We demand these rights that are essential to our development be given to us. We require to be respected. We require to be given freedom. And we require to live the lives we decide to live. These rights will be ours, whether we must force the hands of adults or they give them up freely. They will be ours.