

#24 - The Declaration of Teen Independence

When in the event of human occasions, it becomes obligatory for citizens to terminate the disconnection between one another and to speak up for what they believe should change. We want justice. We want justice that all men are created equal. We want to promote the well-being and secure our rights as the teenagers of the United States.

We believe that there is a burden on us, that there is a change needing to happen. We want to be treated equally among the adults. We don't want to be shut down anymore or treated as we are not good enough. There should be an equality among all people despite their age. We no longer desire to be portrayed as lesser than our elders. This change will start with us taking action.

They have refused to cooperate with us to provide new, innovative, ideas to benefit our school. We are put to shame if we have a new idea. There is an overwhelming amount of people that have great ideas to better our school but we teens keep them to ourselves to stop us from feeling humiliated. They don't acknowledge our dedication to help the school become a better place. Why would we try to make our school environment a better place if we get humiliated for trying to make a change?

They have forced us to take absurd tests twice a year. These tests weigh an enormous percent of our final grade. We are expected to take tests for an entire day on multiple subjects. These tests require over an hour to take. The teachers assume we can remember things we learned from months ago to everything in between, right up until the test. Semester tests are not the best way to capture a student's knowledge. It doesn't necessarily show how much of the material we learned. For some teenagers, tests are incredibly difficult to take and be successful on. I myself have difficulty taking these tests. I study all year long and work hard to earn good grades. These tests bring my grade down because it is such a stressor on me. Taking four tests each day for the entire day is exhausting for teenagers. It is unbelievably unfair to make us students go two straight days taking tests that are the most important tests of the year. We want to remove these tests from the schools. We teenagers do not need or deserve to suffer through these two days of irrelevant tests.

They have put a stigma on us teenagers that we are all rude and ungrateful. We are all automatically irresponsible kids just because we are in high school. Just because there are some kids who do act in a way that is immature, does not mean that we are all like that. We don't want to be treated differently just because of our age. We are not all irresponsible. We are all not ungracious for what we have. We are not all uncivil teenagers. We are mature, responsible young adults. We want this stigma to go away. We demand to end this age discrimination.

They don't allow us enough time in between classes. We are only allowed four minutes to get from class to class. Some of our classes are on opposite sides of the building. It is not logical to give us four minutes to get to our next class and be able to use the bathroom if needed in that amount of time. If I need to use the bathroom, I am risking getting a tardy for that class. We should be allowed the right to have more time in between classes or not be punished for being late. It is nearly

impossible to get from one side of the building to another, stopping at your locker to get your next classes books, and stop to use to bathroom within four minutes. We the teenagers of America deserve more time in between class periods.

The cruel teachers are not willing to understand our schedules. We are required to attend school which is a long, exhausting day. We as teens have jobs, sports, and other activities outside of school. Adults don't allow us to live our lives without making us constantly worry about our school work. We get criticized for staying up too late when we are just trying to finish our work to satisfy our teachers. How are we expected to live our lives to the fullest when we are always consumed in our school work?

They don't allow us to eat snacks during class. We as growing teenagers believe that we need some sort of snack before our lunch. Our lunch is not until after the middle schoolers at 12:20pm. At the elementary age, those kids get a snack time. We the teenagers of America believe that we should have the right to snack on some food items during class. Having students come to school hungry results in a loss of concentration in class. Having an empty stomach doesn't allow for students to function how they normally should. It would improve our focus and concentration in classes. This privilege would allow for a significant amount of positive changes.

They are teaching in ways that are not in the best interest of the students. We are forced to learn everything to the best of our ability even if the teacher does not teach it correctly. We should have the ability to voice our opinion if we feel that we are not being taught correctly. If there is a change that needs to happen in a classroom we should be able to make a transformation. A class could have a majority of students being unsuccessful in which shows that there should be a revision on that subject. Teenagers would benefit tremendously if we had the opportunity to make a change when we see a problem in teaching.

We, the representatives of the teenagers of Spring Valley High School desire to fulfill these grievances. We will continue to fight to see a change and hope that our voices will be heard. We will not settle for anything less than what we deserve. We will establish a better future for the teenagers of the United States. And for the support of this declaration, we promise to one another to all commit each other our lives, our freedom, and our privileged glory.