

Declaration of Independence

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When life gives you lemons sometimes it is necessary to just say no. When the lemon of oppression runs rampant through an undeserving group of people, they have the rightful responsibility to take that lemon and chuck it on back at life's head; of course it should be a perfectly reasonable chuck filled with nothing but respect and well meaning for life, but at the same time a strong and righteous chuck declaring that the wrongdoings done are indeed wrong. A chuck that says that the oppression must stop, and it must stop now.

We hold the ideas in our hearts that we, the teenagers of America, have the right to speak and decide for ourselves what we have a right to do. The right to spend our free time as we will without the heavy burden of a mountain of homework, along with the right to challenge those who seek out to waste our school time with redundant droning and harping. The right to make the decision ourselves as to where we go and why. For far too long have those rights been undermined by our arrogant and controlling elders. The elders who seem to work to bring sorrow and pain wherever they go. This group of people reign with tyranny over so much our world; from our teachers to our very own parents, they control much of our lives. Each time they do such heinous things such as impose upon our rights, all of us innocent children die a little inside, and after so much we are basically living corpses right now. They have done too much wrong for too long, may these facts be proof of their sins.

They have forced upon us school subjects that will not impact almost any students in their future. Should we not have a say in what we need to learn? Are we not capable of making reasonable choices on what classes we need according to what we want to do in life? From physical education to geometry there are a multitude of classes that neither help nor inspire almost any of the students forced into them. For 90% of students there is absolutely no reason that we should be subjected to four years of maths, yet still they force us through them with the threat of not graduating held over our heads. The choice should be given to us to take classes that we believe are useful and practical.

They have given us teachers who do not know how to teach without boring the masses with their monotonous droning and apathetic attitudes. Our education relies on these people, so it is unfair to us if any of our teachers suck. We live in a society where percentages and grades are made out to be almost everything important in a teens life. Bad grades cause stress on students and parents alike. Children get grounded. Phone privileges get revoked. Good grades on the other hand allow access to the commons, and can get students an early meal. There are so many consequences to what grade we receive that having a teacher compromise our ability to get good grades is a heinous thing to do.

They have subjected us to hours of work that we have no choice but to do at home, despite many of our busy schedules. Many of us have sports, work, etc. before and after school and on the weekends, leaving us with little free time as it is. Then on top of all that, teachers will add up to two hours of homework. More often than not, that amount of homework is unnecessary and excessive. Most of us do not need to do 30 of what is generally practically the same math problem over and over to understand the concept, and those who do can do the extra work regardless if it was assigned. We should not be required to do more work than we need when what we really need most is some time to relax.

They have fed us such terrible food that many of us wouldn't even be so evil as to feed their worst enemies many of the items on the menu. Perhaps that kind of disgusting slop is the reason so many people associate healthy food with being gross. It is not right if we must live in fear of closely looking at what we are eating in fear that we will see something we'd rather not. From strange spots, to mystery lumps, to eerily off colored slabs of meat there is much left to be desired when it comes to school lunch. Shouldn't they at least offer us salt to offset the bland flavor and offensive textures? But of course they would never. That would just be unhealthy.

They have categorized us and stereotyped us to the point that whatever opinions or ideas we have are swiftly brushed off. We are just 'dumb kids', so what could our lowly opinion possibly matter? We are the future of this world, so shouldn't we be encouraged to express what we want for the future and for our lives. We should have a say in everything from school policies, to who runs our country. There are plenty of adults that are far more incompetent than many of us, yet their opinions matter more only because of their age.

They have stolen our right to make decisions for ourselves by forcing us to get a parents/guardians permission and/or signature on an unnecessarily large amount of things. We can't even stay home sick without a guardians permission. We as young adults should be allowed the responsibility of spending our time as we choose. If everything is 'parents this, parents that' all through our youth, when we finally graduate, and we're left on our own, we flounder that much more.

They have put restrictions on our freedom to express ourselves through what we wear. We are told that what we wear can't be a distraction, but are shoulders really distracting anyone? Does anyone really care if someone's wearing something slightly revealing? We're not even allowed to wear a hat in school. It's absolutely ludicrous.

We have not been silent. Every opportunity we have we protest. We do not hold back what we think. We have gossiped, slandered, and complained tirelessly to everyone who would listen about all of these things. On occasion we have even formally addressed our concerns, and still have come out with no change. Old people do not truly care for us, for if they did they would listen to us.

It is because of these reasons that we, the representatives of the teens of Spring Valley High School, hereby declare ourselves independent from the adults who control us. We shall be free to make choices for ourselves. From here on out we are our own people, and we shall behave as such; we will take control of our responsibilities for our rightful reasons as we see fit for our future, and in extension, the future of our world.