

#30 - The Teenager's Declaration of Independence

When it comes to human rights, too many people look down upon the teenagers of the United States of America. They receive unfair treatment by the country's gentlepersons. Throughout the last couple of decades, teenagers have entered a new threshold, and feel as if they are still being treated like children. It is time for the teenagers to separate, and take their reputation to a whole new level of greatness. God has instilled a voice in everyone in this world for a reason.

We, the teenagers of the United States of America, hold these truths to be self-evident, that everyone of all ages in this country are created equal. We should all be allowed to make our own decisions. As young adults, we should have more freedom in school, a meaningful education to help in the future, and not having a large quantity of homework every night. To secure these rights of teenagers, we have to use our powers that we have and make our lives better than it has ever been. With that said, we demand equality. We demand a world of little to no judgment by our elders. And most importantly we demand a comfortable school life and more freedoms. This will change, and we the teenagers of the United States of America will make that happen. Have you ever thought the oppressors decisions have been unruly to us American teenagers? Probably not because you are one of the oppressors who has made decisions for us when we are mature and old enough to be making those decisions. We as teenagers feel that America itself is looking down upon us.

- I. We, the teenagers of Spring Valley high school wish to change the homework situation. Have you ever realized that we go to school for 8 hours and then some of us either have a job or sports after school? And teachers expect us to still go home and do boat loads of homework? It is not healthy for the brain to never get a break from school. Same with on the weekends, why should we spend our weekends doing homework, when it's our time off from doing homework after already being at school prior to that for 40 hours or even more than that. We feel that by cutting down the amounts of homework our stress level would go down and we all would feel a little happier on a daily basis. We know that school is setting us up for the future but sometimes it starts to be too much on all of us.
- II. We, the teenagers of Spring Valley High School think it is our right to be able to get up and use the restroom or get a drink at anytime without asking. From personal experience, I have asked to use the restroom during work time and

have been told no. Teachers need to let us young adults have some freedom in school. There is no other place in the country where people have to ask to use the restroom or get a drink of water. Also having bathroom passes for a quarter in the school year is outrageously cruel. What is the point of the passes when some students just need to go and can't help it? If students start going to the bathroom everyday during that class period than they could be told no. But other than that, it's time to let us teenagers fend for ourselves and make some of our own decisions.

- III. We, the teenagers of Spring Valley High School should be allowed to go off campus two to three times a week for lunch. Only the students that are well behaved and have a GPA of a 3.6 or higher should be allowed to leave. Students should have a choice in what they want for lunch and not eat nasty school lunch everyday. If they want to go home or go to Subway for lunch they should be able to do so. Students should have to sit in school and then not be able to eat a good lunch. There are so many students that don't ever eat at school because for one, the lunch is not good and two, they don't have the time to pack something for themselves in the morning. This is another way of giving us teenagers some freedom at school and setting us up for the real world because it makes us make good decisions.
- IV. We, the teenagers of Spring Valley High School should be able to go home during eighth period if we are green level and have our license. During WIN time a lot of students just go into the gym and they don't do their homework anyways. Having such a long day and then know that there is a pointless study hall at the end of the day is no fun for anyone. Having said that, students still need to be on time for practice if they are still in sports. If we the teenagers of Spring Valley were able to do this, we would all be in a happier mood at the end of the day.
- V. We, the teenagers of Spring Valley High school should be able to have better vending machine food during school. We learned in health classes that eating small snacks throughout the day is healthier than just eating two or three big meals a day. Each class should have to fundraise at least \$100 for the year and then pick snacks that they want to go into the vending machines. The students would also have to have the responsibility of keeping the vending machine stocked. Doing this will help kids from not withering away during class. From my personal experience, I get hungry towards the end of fourth hour and the beginning of fifth hour. Having the vending machine with good snacks would allow kids to stay full the entire day of school.

- VI. We, the teenagers of Spring Valley High School should have spring break every year. Having spring break every other year does not make sense to anyone. Some families plan a vacation every year so they get to have some fun family time. The kids who miss five days of school, on the years that we don't have spring break get overwhelmed with the homework they are missing and then they don't even get to enjoy their vacation because they are too busy worrying about their homework that needs to be done. Also going a week longer in June shouldn't be a big deal because everyone would love to have a week off in the spring.
- VII. We, the teenager of Spring Valley High School, should be allowed to have halfs days and leave for work for the rest of the day. Some kids have to go work six to eight hours after school everyday. If they could leave school early they could actually have some down time when they got done with work. Also some kids are so busy with after school activities that they can't have a job. For those students, they would be able to leave school and then go and work for a few hours and still be able to be back to the school for their after school activities. Having said that, the students have to be in well standing with the school and an upperclassman. We are however stuck in this "prison" for 7 hours and 15 minutes out of the 24 hour days. We are at school for 37 ½ hours a week. Have you ever thought of how many times you actually get to see the sun during the week? Probably not. The sun rises at 7:39 A.M. and sets at 4:28 P.M. This means that we only get to see daylight for exactly 26 minutes before school and 68 minutes after school. Some students don't even get to see the sun because they after school things. Getting out of school early, would allow us to see the sun. And a lot of students work outside, so it would nice for them to be able to work in the daylight. There's also no point in having to take a bunch of electives that we don't even want to be in. By not being in the electives that are basically pointless, we would have more time making money. We have always been told that "money is everything." If that is true than we should have the right to leave school and go to work.

As we, the teenagers of Spring Valley High School start to transition into adulthood, we expect our freedoms as young adults. The rights listed above with show to our elders that we are responsible and can make good choices. We want our reputation to change, and learning the importance of responsibility and accountability will sure help our reputation in the future. Being underestimated is not what we want. We want a fair life, and to have everyone count on us. Having these rights will also show everyone that we

the teenagers of Spring Valley High School have grown up in a very “adult” like community.