

## #31-Teenage Declaration of Independence

When in the course of teenage events it becomes necessary for the people of highschool age to dissolve the stereotypes that have been placed upon us, to say no to all the unnecessary restraints by which the grown up kind have put upon us, and to receive the respect that we the adolescents deserve.

The teenagers of Spring Valley High hold these truths to be self evident, that people of all ages were created equal, that they are all gifted to this world with the same unalienable rights, and among those are respect, a fair education, and the right to personally denounce physical education. That to secure these rights, the current instituted rights among students must be abolished, and to stop deriving their just powers from senseless permission forms, it is the right of those students and their parents to abolish it, and to institute a new guideline, to make the majority of both parents and students live an easier, more efficient life.

The school systems have denied our basic human right to go to the bathroom whenever we need. We feel the urge to pee, we suck up our dignity, raise our arms and ask in the presence of a large student body "May I go to the bathroom?", what do we get in return? "No, why didn't you go during lunch?", what are we to do in this situation, piddle in our trousers? No, because this is neglect.

The school systems have denied our right to relax when we get home. We spend seven long hours, five times a week sitting at tables, listening to lessons, and doing school work. This is a lot, but they further punish us adolescents by dropping hours of school work to do at home. What happens when you have a job? After school sports? Family events? God forbid a social life. We need a curriculum that allows us to do all our schooling, in school.

The school systems are oblivious to the fact that teens have raging hormones. They expect us to act perfectly, yet they don't know how to deal with our attitudes. Yes, we are flawed, but if we get emotional during inappropriate times telling us to calm down just makes us furious. We don't need lots of useless, unenforced rules, we need a few rules set in stone that will genuinely make us better people in the future.

The school systems have exposed us to unnecessary public humiliation through the requirement of Physical Education. If half of the student body loafs

around and does nothing in the duration of their REQUIRED three semesters of P.E., doesn't that make the class a waste of time? The people who *do* participate surely would sign up for the class themselves, so why is the rest of the class subjected to torture?

The school systems have taken our right to bring our own non dangerous devices with us. Our devices that were so graciously given to us by our parents for the purpose of contacting them, and having the ability of calling the police if the situation calls for it. Now the school has taken that away, we are forced to give up our property or else we are kicked out of the school.

The school systems buses pack in more people than can fit. The seats are meant for two people but then they stretch that number to three. Usually there are kids falling off the seats, with a mere half a buttcheek placed onto the pew. What if the bus crashes? It would be like a blender full of kids. This arrangement is just plainly unsafe and ridiculous.

Lastly, but not least, the adults of America treat us teenagers as if we amount to less than what they are. Sometimes we may act like it, but we are not as stupid as they think. We deserve to be treated like the human beings that we are, and have the same basic human rights that they do. We have petitioned against this dent upon our rights, we have fought back only to end up in detention, we have worked our hardest. We the teenagers of America deserve the same respect and honor that we give other people, and that is all that we are asking for.

We therefore, the representatives of Spring Valley High School, assembled, appeal to the school board, that the problems they focus on in school are not the problems that matter, and that they should be focusing on making these four, long grueling years of highschool the most enjoyable they can be. And to separate the expectations of teenagers from adults because we are NOT the same thing. And for the support of this Declaration, we mutually pledge that the system has to change, and only small adaptations need to be done in order for it to happen.