

## **#33-The Teenagers' Declaration of independence**

When in the course of human life, it is a necessity to take hold of what can be yours and what has been building up for years. Teenagers are at the age where they do not want to follow exactly what their parents or even an adult tells them or wants them to do. For their whole life they have been told what to do with no exceptions. Teenagers do not want to be treated that way and they do not get enough respect or rights anywhere.

We, the teenagers of the Spring Valley High School, we, the teenagers of the United States of America hold the truth, that all people are equal, whether old or young. People of all ages should be treated the same because we are the same. We teenagers should be allowed to make decisions for ourselves even if they are decisions that can change our lives. Parents or teachers should not have to make critical decisions for a kid that is about to be an adult in a couple years. Some adults or teachers have abused their powers over teenagers and they have been in the catbird seat far too long and we want a little age equality and change.

They force us to have an education that requires unnecessary work every day of the week. A five day eight hour week, when most people this age have a job that takes about two to three hours a day, or are in sports or other extracurricular activities that take up more time that is again, around two to three hours. Also, some nights if you are in sports and have a game, you will not get home until late, especially if it is an away game. You are also required to do around an hour of homework somewhere in between the day or after you are home, which is outrageous because now you are looking at around a thirteen hour to fourteen hour day and we get up at the crack of dawn and that needs to be taken into consideration. Even Mr. Furrer believes teenagers workdays are too long because we get no break in the day or week.

They have denied our request for an open campus during lunch and a lot of other things. If we ask for an open campus for lunch or anything else, we get shot down. They think we do not have good ideas because they do not listen or follow through, which is not right because we have a right to be respected and listened to and this is just another example of how they do not respect us. All we want is an open campus to go down to Team Oil/Subway during the lunch hour to buy things or eat lunch. You would have to have an honor card or have no grades below a D and do not get in trouble. If you are late to the school the next hour or are getting into trouble you get your privileges taken

for the rest of the year and five detentions. Also, maybe work out a deal with Team Oil so you can have school cameras on their property to make sure no one is goofing around and everyone is following the rules.

They have also chose favorites in the school, which is not right because it is unfair. It seems if you are not in every sport or involved in a lot of school activities that you are considered a troublemaker. If a person is favored then whenever they get into trouble they never get any consequences and if a person is not favored or liked by the teacher then they get unreasonable consequences.

They have forced us to follow a rule in which we get a detention for being late to school for our car breaking down, which is out of our control. When will they ever take into consideration that it is impossible for us to prevent our car from breaking down or something happening to it? Not everyone has enough money to buy a brand new car like a lot of parents do to their kid today. Also, saying that "there is always a bus" is really absurd and ridiculous.

They have forced us to eat the most ungodly disgusting lunches that have no taste. The food we are served is right out of a box/freezer and none of it is homemade like it was when our parents were in high school. They have taken out all of the sugar and salt in the food because apparently it is too unhealthy, but taking sugar and salt out a potato wedge is not going to save us from getting diabetes, the real thing that affects people is the junk food they eat outside of school like pop and energy drinks.

They have forced us to follow a curfew at night and if we are out past curfew we get fined. A lot of teenagers are busy all afternoon and on fridays sports teams are getting out at around 9:30-10 and want to hang out with friends. Do they want us to have no social life? Having a curfew is pointless because it is doing nothing for us and we understand that there is little reason to be out after even twelve on a school night but this rule is helping nothing because most teens are back home by then.

They have denied our request for home ec., again. We the teens of the United States would like a cooking class because most teens do not know how to make much or don't have the opportunity to and instead of eating fake food right out of the box we would like to learn how to cook good homemade food. This would help the U.S a lot because people could cook good healthy food and not have to rely on box food.

We, the teenagers of the United States of America, ask for the consideration and ask for the carrying out of our intentions to better our lives because we have a right to make decisions on our own. Teenagers now have the same powers as adults and deserve the same rules and respect. We the future of this great nation pledge to each other and honor each other and hope our voice will be heard.