

A Teenagers Declaration of Independence

When in the course of adolescent events, it becomes necessary for the upcoming generation to dissolve and break the connection that contains the abhorrent stigma which is given to us for no reason. We the students should be granted more basic freedom rights; consequently, we must declare independence from the older generation and start to take action into our hands.

We hold these truths to be undeniable that all students should be treated equal, that all students should be granted the basic rights of life, liberty, privacy, and an enjoyable environment. That, when the people in charge abuse their power and take away these rights it is our responsibility to take a stand and separate ourselves from the injustices laid upon us.

We have been put in an environment that is primarily set up for further education. Why make a kid go through unnecessary classes when they already know they won't need it in the future? Furthermore, our school has diminished classes that would be considered useful in the work environment, such as face and look down upon people who choose to go down that path. Adults are so concerned about the younger generation not knowing basic skills of life, but when would they learn if they pour all their time and energy into school? We have put in our complaint of not having these necessary classes, yet our voice has not been heard.

We have been subjected to a dreadful test every semester. This one test can determine your whole grade for an entire semester and what for? The school system is not set up so that kids comprehend what they are learning, it's set up so that we can memorize a test and then forget. Once the semester test rolls around, our stress and anxiety levels are out of the roof because we are not prepared. We bring up the point every year on why this one test is so important but have struggled to get a redundant reason.

We all get the privilege to take our driving test once we turn sixteen, yet we have to pay to drive to school. If it weren't for kids driving to school, school buses would never get to school on time, and it would be inconvenient for both the students and the staff. We have been wronged when it comes to reasons being late, for some it is hard to get to school. If your car breaks down and you show up late you should not be punished. They have used the argument against us that you should call the bus, but what if you live out of the district? What if it breaks down on the road? And what if the bus has already gone by? There are too many situations where this explanation will not apply, and it is an abuse of power to hold a student responsible for an unpredictable event.

We have all been told by one person or another to get involved with school and join an extracurricular activity. However, multiple of our schools activities struggle to find staff willing to help out. There is a one-way standard implied that students should be the only ones getting involved, while yet the only way they can be is if there is adult supervision. We have asked and

looked for help, but many of our programs have failed or are failing because there is no one willing to step up.

We have been put down upon us the weight of stress and anxiety of everyday life, we are still expected to go to school. The only exceptions to be absent at school are either being sick, pre planned events, or family emergencies. We have been scolded and yelled at for falling asleep in class or not putting 100 percent into everything we do, but how can we if we are mentally exhausted? We are the only ones that know how much we can push ourselves. It is up to us to be proactive and make that call if we feel an off day is necessary. We have tried before to use a different reason for being absent from school, but none have worked in the past.

We have been forced to use up over half of our day for school or school events. Some students spend close to fifteen hours at school a day and are still expected to do another hour of homework that night. School should not consume most of our life, for if they want to still treat us like kids than we should not have as many adult responsibilities and still be granted the enjoyment of life away from school. We have mentioned and begged for less of a workload but fall short to ever see change.

We have been watched and monitored on the daily all because we do not have the trust of the adults, how are we supposed to have a good relationship with someone we don't trust? By putting all these restraints on us before we even have a chance to prove ourselves shows just how highly the seniority thinks of us. We have put in our complaints, but nothing has been done to make us feel better about our privacy.

We, therefore, the students of Spring Valley High School, have assembled and are declaring our independence from the older generation, to break the unfairly created bonds that connected us, and to prove that we have rights as well that need to be upheld. We have been pushed past our last straw, and we are fully ready to start a new beginning for the word teenager.- And for the support of this Declaration, we mutually pledge to each other for our life, freedom, and worry free semesters.