

Declaration of Independence

As a people, we hold the truths to be self evident that everyone deserves happiness, individuality, and a chance to be proven worthy. Without these things we find injustice. With that injustice we find factors such as stress and anxiety under the rule of the elders.

We, the teenagers of Spring Valley High School, under the rule of our parents, educators, and laws by the United States of America, declare our invaluable rights be held to us. To be placed as equals to those who have procured their place in this world, giving a chance to prove ourselves virtuous. For being surmised by the elder folks of our country is simply unjust.

They have refused us the ability to be individuals by enforcing a dress code. Is it not through the dress of one that you grasp a glimpse of the character within? Being withheld from such a freedom has damaged the view of how things should be handled in today's society. Instead of being trained to have self control, boys have to be shielded from uncomfortable situations. Instead of girls being trained to love living inside their skin, their trained to shame, cover, and conceal their bodies. Imagine being a young girl and having to worry every morning about being "dress coded" for wearing something to school, having anxiety about whether or not a teacher is going to approach them about their dress. We know the school system uses this rule to prevent distractions in the classrooms. But when a teacher disrupts the class to take a student out of class to speak to them about what they're wearing creates much more of a distraction than what they are wearing.

They have refused us the ability to be individuals by using stereotypes. Although sometimes stereotypes can relate to some teenagers, there are quite a few teenagers who aren't like the stereotype that is set upon us. Showing respect to teenagers is just as important as showing adults respect; Respect will be given to those who show respect.

They have refused us the ability to be individuals by putting boundaries on our speech. Confining us to speech that they think is "appropriate." Instead of valuing our right of freedom of speech, we have to be on our toes about what we say in the hallways and in the classrooms and as well as on the internet. With that, we must be confined to using speech that we don't use on a regular basis therefore preventing us to be individuals.

They have required us to attend classes that we may not even need or use in our lives. We take classes that make us learn the basics, which is understandable. But when we are required to take classes that really won't affect our future, it is a waste of time. Why shouldn't we be allowed to take classes that we find to be invaluable? Is it not important to learn about things that we think are interesting?

They have required us to attend school for hours starting early in the morning to early in the evening. Some students have to wake up at 6:00 in the morning to get to school do things like lift for sports, or finish extra homework. They have to wake up this early so that they have time to finish these things and be ready for the school days at 8:05. Therefore school goes until 3:20, which afterwards students have sports practices, work, and other responsibilities. With these other activities students end up staying up late at night to finish their homework from the school day, which can add up to being hours. Therefore they may only get roughly 6-7 hours of sleep, when really they should be getting 8-9. Then comes first hour, and students may be so tired that they still don't pay attention in class.

They have required us to pay fees to be a part of extracurriculars. To be apart of any extracurriculars, you must pay a fee, which is quite ridiculous. If students want to be apart of a group or a sport I think they shouldn't have to pay for it.

They have required us to have a probationary license. A probationary license is a period of time when you first get your license that you aren't allowed to do things like have more than 1 friend in the car while you drive. Which is a huge inconvenience for if you would like to go out for a night. Another part of this is you have a curfew of 10:00, and after that time you can only go from work to home or school to home. This is very unconventional for if you go to a late night movie and it doesn't get over until late. So if you get pulled over you get penalized.

With these factors in mind, we the teenagers of Spring Valley must take a stand for our rights. Abolish these rules that the older ones think they can suppress upon us. Let us take a stand and fight back against these arrogant people. By the power of the teenage community, we declare ourselves apart from these rules. Denying our participation and respect, we bid you farewell.