

Teen Declaration

#4-4

It is an inevitable fate for a group of individuals with vastly different values to feel animosity toward the respective group looking over them, and to take on their own view on how the structure of their lives are regulated and looked after. It is even more inevitable for the respective group regulating and looking for this group of individuals to become oppressive. Eventually comes a day where the oppressed start to realize their God-given rights and find themselves in an altercation with the other oppressors: not at the fault of the oppressors, but simply at the fault of fate.

We, the teenagers of the United States find these truths to be self-evident: that the age of an individual does not represent their value as a person, that the rights and happiness of a person shall not depend on their age, that every individual regardless of age have the right to dictate the level of danger they would like to take upon themselves, that everyone has the right to a favorable education, that everyone has the right to govern themselves, that everyone has the right to their personal property regardless of the locations they are compelled to be in, that our free time should not be stolen by tasks we are unwillingly and unnecessarily given, and everyone, regardless of age, has the right to complete pursuit of happiness. I will prove that the following things listed were stolen from us with a list of grievances.

We have been robbed the moments in our life in which we should be free of stress to take part in impractical and tedious work. I contribute many moments of falling short in young adults to the work oppressors use to keep us out. Not only keep us out of a good education, but the pursuit to learning a skill which would be more helpful. This impractical work also is very physically taxing, and this work is relentless.

We have lost the right to property beginning once we cross a line that we are compelled to cross. The oppressors force us into an area in which we “voluntarily” give up our personal property if they deem it “distracting”. Meaning we can be forced to “voluntarily” give up personal property. This is obviously a contradiction, and I firmly believe the oppressors know this and use it to abuse us.

We are not given basic motor vehicle rights that the oppressors themselves have, that they grant upon themselves. Yet we are still forced to pass their qualifications to drive; they deem us ready, but don't give us full access to our right to travel.

We have been taken the simple right to a decent education. We obtain the same education our parents did, and the same education their parents received. We are entitled to improvement and knowledge, but the oppressors are keeping it to themselves as a way to keep us under. We have the biggest education budget per capita; despite this, they do one of the worst jobs in the world. This is not only a waste of money but an embarrassment to us and them.

We have lost the right to a safe and secure online presence. We can be punished in school for acts committed outside of school. Even if the acts aren't illegal, police may be involved because the administration deems it necessary. Being punished outside of school for breaking school regulations is unjust and is unfair enforcement of laws on teens which is inequality on a systematic level. Losing the right to privacy can be incredibly deadly if the wrong people have access to the stolen information.

It can not be ignored that the grievances of peers may not be valid and or accurate. The two grievances listed next are grievances I myself can not defend or support.

The loss of control over something one individuals wear. This grievance has several large problems, and I plan on addressing all of them. First, this is not oppression on teens. All people have a dress code; in fact, our oppressors experience more dress code rules than we do. Under any circumstance our oppressors should be fighting for this right. Second, the idea that there are no negative repercussions for an "open" dress code is quite a misplaced idea and very naive. Over-sexualization of students and/or staff would be a quite unhealthy environment for a productive education. So, what does this grievance hope to gain for teens? I think this issue will only make us looked down upon further and be of no use to teens of the modern age.

They complain about the inability to use ones notes on exams and tests. How could this help us? I don't think it can. I believe we have the right to an above-par education, and I firmly believe the usage of notes on exams will only hold us back. Practicing memory and self reliance is very important, and notes make us dependent. It is contradictory to want independence but want such strong reliance on a device you may not always have access to. This idea is absurd and will only further push us down to the bottom. Together we shall grow more independent, not less.

The former grievances stated will not be helpful in the quest to end ageism, help teenagers in Spring Valley High School, or teenagers all around America. Therefore, I think it would be more productive to ignore these grievances and focus our attention onto the first five grievances listed. I think this shall benefit teenagers all around America greatly.

Therefore, we, the teenagers of the United States of America, will break free of the chains of oppression, and demand that the following grievances are dealt with in a timely manner, with the

overwhelming community of teenagers in consensus on the grievances that should have immediate attention. The grievances which are signs of ageism has been brought to attention and allows for no room for adults to ignore, put off, and shut down our demands. We recognize ourselves as individuals, free American citizens with the same rights as other Americans, despite of possible age variations.