

#6 - The Teenagers' Declaration of Independence

In every lifetime, one shall eventually find themselves at a crossroad where they find there is only one of two options - speak up. Should it be for belief, moral, or opinion, one must put their foot down with zeal; to grasp onto taking control and making a change. Being nearly twelve score, being more than just school system, a change is in stow to be made. The time you may ask? We say the time to seperate. Due to holding all of us accountable for one's mishaps; we should have the right not only to expressive ourselves, but contribute positively to our school under these obscure reasonings.

WE, THE TEENAGERS OF SPRING VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL, hold these truths accountable, the same way that we as a whole are held accountable for the misdemeanor of other individuals, individuals that could range from a small group to two kids down to one. We of all ages should be negotiated the utmost level of respect that we are required to give adults; whether or not they deserve it. Among these shall we be reciprocated with such prestige as Freedom of choice, Adult Authority over oneself, and the Pursuit of Better Treatment. We demand, I repeat demand, the power to at last be heard for once. They stress the word kindness - 'always be kind' , yet have not even the slightest comprehension as to its definition themselves.

They enforce that we come eight hours a day, and we have to walk through such similarity as a prison. We can't have positive sayings? Pictures? Or decorations on our own personal lockers? Bland cream walls imprison, but have you seen other schools? They have positive attributions on the bathroom stalls, walls around the school, and tile floors.

They take away our right to join a sport - cheerleading. Through the mistake of one group, we are all stripped of our choice to have that sport, or participate in it. So let's get this straight, the higher officials can make mistakes, but nobody sees their job being ripped from them? Makes sense.

They take away our right to be hydrated during the day. Do they care about our well being, because there is a solid chance they had a mug during the day. Teachers who are allowed to have coffee, tea, or water during the day (not to mention food) enforced that we couldn't have water bottles. This rule was now altered to allow us to have water bottles, but now they have to be clear or we can't have them. This just seems so silly, and it has all of us students rolling our eyes. But

my point is, this comes into play with we're not treated with as much respect as adults are, which seems almost unfair considering there are some adults in the building who don't act like an adult.

They yell at us if we're walking down the hallway with a snack in our hand. The snack could be mess free or almost eaten and we would still get our head bitten off. Have you been a student? Using our brains so much sometimes provokes the need for a snack some days. As a student myself, more often than not I suddenly feel starving after a hard class, and you have the audacity to jump on our backs about it. Teachers eat food during class, as well as other faculty members. So, how are we any different than feeling the need to fuel our body? The hypocrisy here is just maddening.

For constantly breathing on our necks about how we dress, how we talk, or how we learn. You can't make it a day in this school without having something that you're ridiculed for. Whether it is your hood up, not signing in AND out, running down the hallway, not walking on the right side of the hallway in whichever direction you're going (yes, we got an announcement about this once), or having more than one person in the locker area at lunch, you will get hounded on. Spring Valley High School doesn't promote individuals to be creative. It doesn't allow students to demonstrate their vision on learning. All has to be done specifically in the manner of how the school system wants it.

For taking away not only cheerleading, but home economics as well, is rather disturbing. They took away home economics, and instead added more FFA classes. Answer me this: Does a human being need to know how to cook for themselves in the future, or know how to farm? I think we all know the answer here. Was this decision made based on what the students want, or what the dictators of the high school wanted?

For taking away our fun school events and trips. Going to Wisconsin Dells for fun to support our schools wrestling team? One incident creates a situation where we are all disbanded from being able to take a break from school, and go to a water park or show some school spirit. Is that really the schools decision to make, or suspend from us?

For taking away our rights when in other schools much worse happens. In bigger schools fights occur, many students skip or leave school, and illegal actions are committed. All of these things, and much more, occur on a daily basis in larger schools, yet one little incident that isn't even equivalent to any of these, strips all us of our privileges. It is truly ridiculous. They do not punish only the students involved, each and every one of us is punished. I hate to break the news to you, but this isn't a team, we're a school.

For talking about students. Faculty members in our school gossip about students all the time. In injustice matters of bullying, well I believe this is a case of it. Not only do they speak in disrespectful manners about students to other teachers, but they speak to other students about it. Students have their own complains on teachers, but we aren't adults, and this is a very sadistic act for an adult.

WE, THE TEENAGERS OF SPRING VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL, have had enough. We stand united in demanding more equality in matters concerning more respect and value for the students. For we are not heard, we do not have a say, and we are not given so much as an opportunity. If we choose to speak up, there is punishment. It deems better to stay hidden than to stand strong. However, should our numbers be there, we can make a change, we can stand up, and we can fight. Feel the fear and do it anyway ("Title of a book by Susan Jeffers"). With fear we know we stand passionate, and with numbers we know we stand together. This time you might ask? We say, the time to unite, and fight as one.