

## Teenage Declaration

Over the span of sixteen or seventeen years, a feeling and relationship of trust had been developed between most teenagers over the many difficulties and struggles we have been struggling with day-in and day-out. Day-by-day, we are told that our opinions don't matter. Day-by-day, we are told to unconditionally respect our elders, contrary to the fact that age does not equate to being more or less wise and intelligent. Now is the time to make peace, with the hope and intent of finding common ground for all to become equal.

We teenagers, for many years, have been deprived of the right to vote, simply for the appalling reason that we're "too young". The fact that we're younger does not equate to us being incapable of making impactful decisions for our country. It would be just and fair if a minor votes under the circumstance that they've completed a test or essay proving that they're educated enough in politics to have an adequate, informed opinion, and along with this, they'd be highly encouraged to use the experience to write an essay based upon the person they had voted for and why they had made the particular decision.

We teenagers oftentimes end up having sleepless nights over having to balance studying, homework, and living our personal lives, due to the fact that we suffer from strict due dates for larger assignments. With strict due dates, students have less time to actually work on completing the assignment, thus causing them to bring in less completed, more poorly-made assignments in the next day. Alongside this, students become incredibly anxious and stressed, which affects their ability to correctly study for tests and excel at them. Under the circumstance of teenagers being given the privilege of having extended dates for more difficult and lengthy assignments, they are put under the expectation of having their assignments more well-done, and more thought-out upon the due date.

We teenagers have been denied over multiple decades the right to travel for open-campus lunch. Within a situation in which a student is unable to bring lunch, and they do not want to eat whatever is being served for school lunch, they are stuck in a delicate situation in which they will have to decide between bad food or no food. If given open-campus time during lunch, they may be put under the agreement in which they are required to perform a certain number of community service hours benefiting the town that they are traveling within in order to give back, and students who either neglect to perform this deed, or bring trouble upon the community will be given a warning,

alongside a suspension of privileges and a detention. If the problem persists, they would lose the privilege for a year.

We teenagers often have to face the bitter, heartbreaking reality that we will enter the threshold of the unknown adult world with little idea of what we're doing simply for the fact that, rather than learning how to pay the bills or do the taxes, we were instead required to learn the oh-so-important fact that the mitochondria is the powerhouse of the cell. If we students were given classes that actually benefited us towards our future, such as subjects including cooking, cleaning, taxes, or anything involving helping better not only oneself, but also others around us, alongside being required to pay close attention and have a heavy amount of participation, the students would be able to their newfound knowledge to not only help themselves but also help change the world into a better place.

We teenagers often have to suffer through the disturbing plight of needing to recite and memorize ineffectual facts about subjects that do not benefit you within the future. While memorization may be a somewhat important skill in life, it does not disguise the fact that heavy requirement of this results in anxiety, and with anxiety comes the feeling of being overwhelmed, and thus resulting in grades dropping. We do not want this! If more notes were allowed on exams and tests, we students would be able to work on more important skills, such as punctuality, work ethic, etc. Along with this, if we were allowed open-notes, we'd still need to study and prepare as to be able to complete the test on time as needed, while still being able to look towards notes if needed.

We teenagers have seen many days in which we've needed to complete school work at home because of the lack of time given to work on it at school. Because of the ridiculousness of these large assignments only being done at home, we become unable to ask our teachers for help because they only have 8 hours of the day and students to teach throughout most of them. For more lengthy and difficult assignments, it is fair and honest to allow us a class period in which we work on the assignment with some help from the instructor, under the condition that we actually put forth effort into our assignments and make sure to be open to asking questions during class.

We teenagers have been attending public school throughout several years, many of them were plagued by a strict policy in which we were required to only eat incredibly healthy yet not-too-satisfying school lunches. Though we love to be healthy, we occasionally do want to treat ourselves with something of more exquisite taste after a long, busy and stressful morning. Under the condition that we're given a more "unhealthy" school lunch option set, we will be willing to compromise through eating a certain amount of healthy food alongside any snack we decide to have.

We teenagers live a misfortune of being tortured by strict schedules in which we need to attend long hours of school for five days a week, with only two days between to relieve any form of stress. Not only does this mean that we never have any time for

ourselves to recharge, we also are unable to spend time with our families because we have to dedicate a high percentage of our days and lives to school work, rather than with the people whom we love. If we were given more days off throughout the school year, we'd be willing to perform useful tasks within the school day in order to help the staff and the school, during extended school days.

We, therefore, the Teenagers of America, and of the world, declare that we will no longer remain silent about these issues at hand, plaguing us of many simple rights we rightfully deserve. After years of sitting aside, hoping an answer would come on its own, we've decided, with all due respect, to take matters into our hands and fight harder, and stronger for the things we not only want, but need to help us become the most diligent and educated workers of the future.