

Stephanie Homola

## How to Empower Students to Become Politically Active

The men and women of today's youth are infected with the idea that politically they have no true say. They truly believe that no matter how politically active they are, they cannot change the course that the American government takes. Most people can agree that the government has let us down these past seven years, and this is one of the main reasons that the youth feels this way. Many people no longer feel that the government is for the people, and this causes them to distance themselves from politics. Because this has become such a widespread problem, it is important to empower students today to become politically active, and the best way to do this is to give these students the knowledge that they need to understand how their voice can truly make an impact.

Education clearly plays a large role in a student's life, and through education students learn their values and talents, among other things. By educating students thoroughly about American government, and how their rights enable them to influence the world, students may finally realize how important being involved in politics truly is. Politics play a role in each individual's life differently, but it is imperative that each person know how government functions before speaking about it. Schools not only should teach this material in depth, but should also offer options like debate class as electives so that students can have the opportunity to express their political beliefs and be more involved.

Although teachers at school can greatly affect the opinions of their students, the greatest teachers a student has are usually their parents. Parents clearly make a very large impact on their children's beliefs, so when parents are not politically active, their children tend to follow the

same path. So many adults today choose not to vote, yet complain about the government daily. This is completely hypocritical. If these people really care about how the government is influencing them, then they should do something about it, and if they do not, they should not complain about anything because they did nothing to try to prevent it. Parents need to show their children the importance of partaking in politics, or this problem will continue.

When people choose not to be politically active, they usually do not remember that political activism has not always been a choice. In this country's history, there have been multiple instances where Americans have been deprived of their right to be politically active. Just a hundred years ago, women did not even have the right to vote. So many people have fought for their right to have a say in their country's future, and that is why political activism is so incredibly important. When students are not aware of how Americans in the past have suffered just to earn this right, they do not value it. By making students more aware of the significance of political activism, these students may feel more responsible to participate in political events.

I am proud to be politically active. I love my country, and I think that it is very important that I do my best to contribute to it by being involved politically. As a young individual in today's society, I have seen many people who have lost hope in the political system. This must be changed, especially among young adults. Through using role-models in student's lives to educate them about the American government and the importance of political activism, this problem may be solved. As a Republican, I believe that through hard-work, success is possible. I have worked incredibly hard these past few years of my life, and I have faith that through living by my conservative values and staying politically active, I will achieve this success.