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Your Vote Is Our Future

After the terrible shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL, senior Emma Gonzalez and others stunned the country with their passionate speeches and protests, demanding justice for their dead schoolmates, as well as for others around the country. While not all of us young adults have stories like theirs, we all recognize the problems facing our country and our world. However, we don't need protests and tragedies to change the world. By voting, we have the power to change laws, to save our Earth, and to make a better future for ourselves.

Throughout history, young people have stepped up against injustice. On March 2, 1955, 15-year old Claudette Colvin was arrested for not giving up her bus seat to a white man, one of the first protests of the Civil Rights Movement. Today, young leaders such as Malala Yousafzai and Greta Thunberg advocate for the challenges we still face. In our own communities, we also can fight for justice by voting for laws that will improve housing, education, and financial support for everyone.

How many times have your parents or grandparents asked you how to use the internet, or how to open a text message? As the world is advancing in technology and discovery, our ideas about life are also evolving. The fact that we are growing up in this time of change has led us, the young, to embrace it, rather than fight it. Our eyes can see the problems that previous generations accepted as a part of life: pollution, climate change, etc. Because of this, we have the most power to fix them, through large scale movements as well as actions in our small communities. We have the power, and the duty, to protect our world for ourselves and those who come after us.

When we were young, adults always made the decisions for us. They voted on acts that they believe will give us a better future. As we become adults ourselves, we have the opportunity to shape our own future as well. After all, laws are signed for our generation as well as our parents' - shouldn't we use our right to influence what's in them? It's true, we don't write laws, but we can petition, make suggestions, and most importantly, vote on the ones that will benefit us.

Many young adults feel like they aren't heard in the world, like nothing they say or do can change anything. We sometimes feel insignificant compared to the amazing feats accomplished by the leaders making headlines around the world. We are not insignificant, though – we are the future. Voting may seem small-scale, but movements are built on small acts. Our votes count as much as our parents', and if we all unite for the betterment of our future, positive change is inevitable. Voting is not just our right, it's our duty to all humanity.