

Prompt: There appears to be apathy among youth today as to political involvement. If given the opportunity what would you do to change it?

It is true - Teens rarely give a damn when it comes to politics. Don't blame us : Political jargon takes time and patience(traits we lack) to decipher and fully digest, not to mention the lack of parental encouragement to become involved in the political realm. These two factors, and many more, intertwine to give teens the notion that politics should be left for the grown ups to handle.

To allay the "political ignorance" that plagues American teenagers, we must first determine and mend the greater problem - our Parents, or the Media?

Parents. Every ones' got 'em. From Jesus to Rasputin, Obama to Conan, it's something we all share in common. And that, is why we should start here. Many blame teens, not parents, for our political apathy. My parents never walked up to me and explained how the electoral college worked, nor how old I need to be to vote, but it was I who walked to them with these questions. Most teens, however, are less likely to do what I did, while most parents, are more likely to do what mine did. Therefore, to side with the odds, It should be parents, not children, who take the initiative to instill both political curiosity and a political identity. Just like we are told on our television, newspapers, and magazines that smoking kills, that deforestation may be the death of us, and that recycling matters, we should also be told that voting is the lifeblood, the means by which our country operates, and it is our parents' civic duty to guide us through into political maturity. Government funded campaigns should lead the way to inform the parent masses of our growing political apathy and the problems it poses for our democracy.

Boondoggle? Tall Poppy Syndrome? Edifice Complex? And people wonder why teens stay away from politics, while these convoluted, linguistic abominations are thrown on the house floor! Jargon is at times a blatant glimpse into the ego - a way to make yourself "sound smart" when you are as dumb as a

buffoon. At times jargon is necessary, such as in distant niches of study like Computer Science and Statistics, to give new ideas a word to refer to them by. But in politics, a field in which all Americans are meant to partake in, jargon holds no rational standing. Political culture should be as simple as can be so that anyone can take part. We should all realize this, and strive to simplify the already intimidating atmosphere that envelops American Politics.

The idea that "Politics is for Grown-Ups" is flat-out suicide. This government does its job on the basis of the people's voice. We may have millions in population, but only half of us are politically involved, and it is these votes/people that hold value to our democracy. Someone who isn't politically involved is dead in the eyes of Democracy. Now I must pose a question - Are you dead?

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