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Government

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Why My Vote Matters

As years pass, more and more people choose to be indifferent to democracy and don't vote; the very principles of democracy allows this indifference—it's our right. However, what people don't understand is that it is within their power to change what they dislike.

A lot of the time, the motive behind why people don't vote is sometimes that they dislike the candidates or the people. Often times, mostly with young people, it's because they're uneducated. Lots of young people are uneducated with how the government works and, thus, are uneducated on the process of voting and so don't understand how their vote matters. Most of the time, though, the reason people don't vote is because they think that their voice doesn't matter. And, frankly, it won't— But here's the thing: Voting is essential to change in our country. Maybe one vote out of all the votes of the country cannot make any difference, but millions of votes together can.

If someone doesn't make any effort to express their opinions through voting, they really have no right to complain about things they don't like. Individually, if someone see something which needs to be changed—legal driving age, level of authority of law enforcement, abortion—it is within their responsibility to change it. And it is then that, together, we form groups that move to change. By choosing not to vote you are choosing to be ignored. Because both parties's candidates analyze the public's opinions, they are aware that most young people

don't vote and, thus, pay little attention to the group. However, if more young people voted, then the candidates would pay more attention to the group, understanding that young people have a say as well. All the factors that play a role in understanding where candidates stand on issues can be overwhelming and intimidating, but fewer and fewer people vote, the more constrained the powers in of our country become, the more smaller they become.

I suggest that young people read newspapers, listen to the news, and formulate opinions for themselves based on their own beliefs, not those of their parents or their friends. Becoming an active member of society, one can gain more understanding of the the way our government works and where they stand on the matter so when it comes time to vote, they know what they're doing.