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1st Place

My Engagement with America's Democracy

By: Kristijan Stojkoski

In the United States of America, democracy is more than just a system of government, it is a collaboration and a meeting between the people and the leaders they choose. Every single citizen, no matter what their race, age, opinion, lifestyle, or background, has a voice in shaping the future of this country.

My engagement with America's democracy starts with the education the country provides us. Through education, we learn about the rights and responsibilities we the people have, and we participate in the democratic process. Subjects like civics and history teach us how our government is structured and how important it is to vote. Also, education provides the knowledge to make informed decisions. Learning about the Constitution, The Bill of Rights and other important documents helps students appreciate their rights.

Another way I engage with America's democracy is by valuing freedom of speech. This freedom allows me to express my thoughts and stand up for my beliefs. Every debate and voice helps strengthen our democracy. Freedom of speech enables citizens to discuss and debate, sharing public opinions and government policies. Through social media, newspapers, and articles, people can voice their opinions, contributing to a vibrant democracy. By connecting with others, I feel part of an important conversation driving our nation forward, inspiring me to stay involved and make a difference.

The economy of the United States of America is another significant area where

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engagement in democracy is very crucial. A strong and stable economy provides great opportunities for all of the citizens and ensures that the nation prospers. Technological advancements are also vital as they drive innovation, improve industries, and enhance the quality of life. Advances in technology have led to breakthroughs in healthcare making treatments more effective and accessible.

My experience with America's democracy is not a casual but an active and meaningful involvement in shaping our country's future. It begins with education, which provides the knowledge to make informed decisions. Engaging actively through education, exercising freedom of speech, and valuing economic opportunities are crucial for driving our nation toward progress. By participating in these fundamental aspects, I feel equipped for a more informed and connected America. Being part of this democracy is both a privilege and a responsibility and through my engagement, I aim to uphold the values that make our nation resilient.

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2nd Place

My Voice in Democracy

By: Layla Lucas

Have you ever wondered how you can have a voice in democracy? Have you ever thought you were too young to make a difference? I've had these thoughts too, but no matter your age, there are always ways to use your voice in democracy. You can express your feelings on social media, participate in community service, and stay informed about current events.

One way to express your opinions in a democracy is by sharing your thoughts on social media. For example, if you disagree with the rule that you must be around 16 to get a "real" job, you can post about it online. You could argue that some jobs should be available to younger teens. If businesses see your post and agree, they might consider lowering the age requirement for certain jobs.

Another way to have a voice in a democracy is through community service. Regardless of your age, you can always find ways to contribute. For example, if you are unhappy with how dirty your neighborhood is, you can organize a group of people to help clean it up. By taking action and involving others, you not only improve your community but also inspire others to take part in making positive changes. This kind of effort can have a significant impact and show that everyone has the power to make a difference.

Another important way to have a voice in a democracy is to stay informed. To understand what is happening in your country, you can watch the news or discuss

② Layla Lucas

current events with your parents. During an election year, you can watch presidential debates or read about the candidates to learn more about their positions and policies.

Staying informed helps you make educated decisions and engage in meaningful conversations about important issues. By being knowledgeable, you can better advocate for the changes you want to see and encourage others to do the same. This active participation is crucial for a healthy democracy.

No matter your age, you can always have a voice in democracy. Every action counts, even if it seems small. You can share your thoughts on social media, participate in community service, and stay informed about current events. By doing these things, you can help shape your community and country. Remember, everyone has a voice, and it's important to use yours for the changes you want to see. Your efforts can inspire others and make a difference, no matter how big or small.

3rd Place

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Ryan Granzow

My Voice in Democracy

Let's start with this question. What does "Your Voice in Democracy" mean? "Your voice in democracy" means how you can share your opinions and influence decisions in your community or country. To me, this means my voice is heard and can influence important decisions in my community and or country. What I can do to get my voice heard, is to make the importance of my question and or opinion clear to the city, state, or even our government.

Why should my voice be heard? In a democracy, every voice matters, including mine. By sharing my thoughts and ideas, I contribute to the decisions that shape our community and country. My perspective can help state issues that affect all of us as citizens of our country. Speaking up ensures that diverse viewpoints are considered, making our democracy stronger and more inclusive. Together, we can create positive change and help our voices be heard not just as adults, but as children as well.

Children play important roles in a voice being heard in a democracy. Children play a very important role in democracy by bringing new and captivating perspectives and new ideas. Their voices remind us of the importance of planning for the future and considering the needs of all generations. When children speak up, they inspire adults to think creatively and act responsibly. By taking action in discussions and expressing their views, children help build a more open and forward-thinking democracy.

What could our voice do after being heard? When our voice is heard, it can lead to meaningful change and progress. Our ideas and concerns can influence decisions made by important decision-makers and policymakers. By speaking up, we can help clarify important issues, improve our communities, and ensure that everyone's needs are considered. Our voice can inspire others to take part in this, creating a lasting and ripple-like effect that strengthens our democracy and makes it more responsive to the people it serves.

After all of this, my voice in democracy has been heard. I don't know if my opinion had been fulfilled by the people who can pass it, but it could make a huge impact on the people's needs to form a healthy government. I have just stated why my voice should be heard, why children play many important roles in a voice in democracy, and what our voice could do after being heard. People need to stand up for themselves and defend their right to speak out, just as the First Amendment says we can. Let your voice be heard.