
2025 Patriot's Pen First Place Winner
"My Voice in America's Democracy?"
Evelyn Newbigging
Lancaster, South Carolina

As a teenager living in the US, I'm starting to realize how important my voice is in our democracy. I believe Democracy is about people having a say in important topics, and that includes me. Even though I'm not old enough to vote, there are still plenty of ways to get involved and make a difference. My voice in American democracy means using my opinions, ideas, and actions to help shape the future for myself and others.

Even though at my age I can't vote yet, I can still advocate for the issues that matter to me. I can push for change doing things like, writing a letter to my local representatives, raising awareness through social media, or even starting a petition. By speaking out in such ways, I can help ensure issues like climate change and mental health problems continue to be on the List for discussion.

There are so many ways to get involved at my age as well. I can join school clubs that encourage me to use my voice like student council. Also volunteering in my community, or even just talking about what's going on in the world with my peers can help make a difference. Something I do need to keep in mind when advocating for something is that it isn't just about shouting about what's wrong, it's also about being part of a solution and encouraging others to do the same and care about things that matter.

Having a voice in democracy isn't just a right, it's a responsibility. In today's world, it's easy to get caught up in rumors or misinformation, especially on social media and in school when one thing leads to another. So being responsible on social media is very important. It's also important to fact-check and understand the issues before coming up with opinions or sharing information. I've learned that everyone

has a voice and that it's okay to change my mind when I learn new things and that listening to others can help me see things from different perspectives.

In conclusion, my voice in American Democracy is about more than just waiting until I'm old enough to vote. It's about speaking up for what I believe in, staying informed on the truth, and encouraging others to do the same. Even as a teenager, I can make a difference in the world around me.

Patriot's Pen Essay

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