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Learn and Utilize Your Rights

The Constitution of the United States of America provides all of us with basic rights- certain unalienable rights that no government body could ever take away from us. The problem with the world today is that many Americans are unaware of their rights. Either they don't care enough to learn them or they simply don't realize what they are privileged to. Other Americans are aware of these rights, but choose not to utilize them. We as Americans don't realize how lucky we are to have the Constitution, the Supreme Law of the Land, outline such detailed and wide ranged rights as it does. We as Americans take our rights for granted. Josh Larimer and I decided to work together on this project in order to advocate to our fellow classmates, fellow young Americans, the utmost importance of not only knowing our Constitutional rights, but utilizing them as well. Josh and I both wrote our persuasive essays on topics pertaining to rights and the Constitution. Josh's paper was more focused around gun laws, the Second Amendment, and mine to women's rights and equality, the Nineteenth Amendment. We decided, however, that there was a larger issue at hand- the fact that we witnessed interviews of college students who didn't know what the Bill of Rights was, and that although 52 percent of Americans can name at least two characters from the Simpsons, only 28 percent are able to name more than one of the five fundamental freedoms. Since our fellow classmates and students our age are the new and upcoming voters and adults of America, we thought it was only right to target our advocacy project toward them. After all, our generation is next in line to make a difference. Josh and I made a poster outlining some of our basic rights as well as some interesting facts showing classmates how little

Americans really know about their rights. We thought this mode of presentation best to appeal to our entire class at one time. We also decided to create a website in which to showcase our poster online and to make it easily sharable. On the website, we included an online pledge for students outside of our class to sign, vowing to learn and utilize their rights and to make informed decisions as U.S. Citizens. Luckily for students in our own class, we created a new version of the preamble of the Constitution. The hope was that our classmates would sign the "Constitution," just as the founding fathers did, vowing not to establish the Constitution, but to acknowledge our impact on society and to *practice* our Constitutional rights.