

Voice of Democracy 2010

Does my generation have a role in America's future? Do teenagers like me, have an impact on the direction that this country will be headed? Yes, because, my generation is the future of America. In the midst of my generation is a future senator, neurosurgeon, lawyer, Supreme Court justice, president and first lady, company CEO, and inventor. We will determine the future of this country. Though we may not realize it now, our time is quickly approaching where we are the voters, the voice of America. My generation may be seen as lazy, disinterested, un-American, and ungrateful. However, this is not true for all of my generation.

Often my generation is looked down upon. I will not deny some of the accusations. The truth is plainly evident; my generation has grown up spoiled in a sense. Some of us have lost our pride in our country, our love for others, our respect for our elders, and our duty to our country. But before you assume that all of us have this attitude, know that among this generation, there are teenagers who have a burning passion to lead, serve, sacrifice, and work.

Young people are inspired to get prepared now for when it is our turn to be the leaders. I have attended three leadership conferences sponsored by Dr. Jay Strack. Student Leadership University was designed to train this generation. I attended 101 in Orlando, Florida, 201 in Washington D.C, and 301 in Oxford and London, England, Normandy and Paris, France. I have met young people who have gone through this

leadership program who have started their own organizations or have become authors. I now know that my generation has the full ability to reach above and beyond what is believed of us. As Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey once said, “What we need are critical lovers of America- patriots who express their faith in their country by working to improve it.” Student Leadership University and other programs are doing just this, training and raising us to appreciate and work to make America a better place.

I also believe that my generation is one that will learn from previous mistakes. We have watched the World Trade Centers be destroyed by terrorism; we have seen the economy go up in smoke, and watched the debates of abortion and gay marriage. Though I am terrified of rising up and becoming the voice, I know that we can and we will supersede the expectations of many. It will require sacrifice, unity of purpose, hard work, and determination. Everyone makes mistakes, but they remain mistakes and failures if you do not learn from them. Perhaps, we will learn from the previous generation’s mistakes and failures and turn them into successes.

Perhaps the biggest issue that my generation will have to deal with is the accusation of ungratefulness. I have been to D.C, I have seen the memorials to those who so valiantly died, I have been to the beaches of Normandy where many gave their lives, and I have heard “Mr. Inspiration”, Bob Weiland speak. Everything that we have is credited to the people who actively defend and protect not only us, but our Constitution, and our freedom. Thomas Jefferson once said, “My God! How little do my countrymen know that precious blessings they are in possession of, and which no other people on

earth enjoy!” While this quote may be true for a good portion of my generation, it does not include me, nor those who are actively taking steps now to lead. My hope is that the negative names that have been bestowed upon us would not follow us into adulthood.

Does my generation have a role on the future of America? You have just listened to one voice of America’s future.